



## Celebrating Dewi Sant!

THESE three young ladies in national costume were all dressed up for St David's Day in a Porthcawl primary school.

Local photographer Malcolm Nugent visited the school as the pupils prepared for the day's special eisteddfod. (SEE PAGE 6 FOR MORE PICTURES).



# Porthcawl bust up on regeneration? BCBC 'KEEPING COUNCIL IN THE DARK'

A BUST-UP is on the cards between Porthcawl Town Council and the county borough over the town's regeneration.

The town council decided at its February meeting to organise a public meeting on regeneration – in response to increased agitation in the town on the subject.

No public meeting has taken place since 2007, and residents have been lobbying councillors

about being kept in the dark.

The town council has itself claimed to have been excluded from discussion and has also asked for an increase in its representation on the Regeneration Forum.

As a result of the decision to call a meeting, town clerk Alison Leyshon e-mailed Louise Fradd, who is the director of Communities at

by JAYNE ISAAC

hold a meeting and inviting her and regeneration officer Andrew Parry Jones to attend.

Miss Leyshon then asked Ms Fradd for a list of dates when she would be available so that the meeting could be organised to suit her.

But in her reply, which is included in the papers being considered at the council meeting tonight, Thursday, Ms Fradd

makes no mention at all of the meeting and does not respond to the invitation to attend.

Instead, she says that the following "consultation" was being planned within the next two to four months:

- An exhibition on the retail proposals – the new Tesco store.

- A special edition of the council's *Bulletin* newsletter for Porthcawl only that will outline the proposals and timescales.

- A meeting of the regeneration forum.

- A further newsletter to shopkeepers.

Council leader David Deere said he was very angry at the tone of the reply.

"This is extremely discourteous," he said. "It is officer-speak. She has just ignored our invitation to attend the meeting."

"She talks about consultation – well, in my book, consultation is a two-way street. What she is talking about is information – telling people what BCBC wants to happen. It's not good enough."

Coun Deere said that the town council would press ahead with its meeting.

"This has been agreed by all parties on the council and it will be taking place with or without BCBC representatives."

"If they choose not to attend to answer the valid questions that Porthcawl residents would like to ask, then it will reflect very badly on their claims to have consulted the people of the town."

"This regeneration scheme will affect every

## Man threatened after Brynmenyn brawl kicked off!

VIOLENCE erupted in a street at Brynmenyn, after a barbecue.

Nathan Jones (28) and Ian Parker (29), both of Brynmenyn, were involved in attacking a neighbour who complained about the noise.

Both pleaded guilty at Cardiff Crown Court to causing Andrew Molenby actual bodily harm, and Jones also admitted criminal damage and assault.

Parker was jailed for six months, suspended for two years, and Jones was made subject to a community order involving 12 months' supervision and 100 hours unpaid work.

He was also ordered to pay compensation of £250.

Recorder Winston Roddick said: "Your vic-

tim was doing no more than asking you to keep down the noise."

"It was a sustained attack and Mr Molenby was vulnerable, with a pacemaker. You were told that. It was a frightening experience and your behaviour was an utter disgrace."

But, he added, the injuries were minor, no weapon was used, and the attack was not pre-meditated.

Prosecutor John Lloyd said that in the early hours of July 14, Mr Molenby approached a group of about six people in his street and asked them to keep down the noise.

Parker then grabbed him around the neck and punched him to the face.

Both defendants became aggressive and Mr Molenby's wife was kicked by Jones.

"They reacted very badly and they know that."

"There is great remorse, and they are not in any way lost causes."

## Independent stuns Tories in Newton by-election drama

by JAYNE ISAAC

in the town, who felt as if they have no voice.

"Although the election started by focusing on regeneration, it quickly moved on to other issues. People have voted with their feet because they are fed up with how the town council has behaved."

"We found that there was a lot of unhappiness over what people felt was a lack of communication between themselves and their councillors."

Mr Walter stated that people complained that they wanted to see their councillors more than once every four years at election times.

"They also want to be consulted over how the council is spending their money. They had no say on the decision to spend money on the skateboard park or the new footpath from Rest Bay."

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 15)

## DRUGS ARREST

BRIDGEND police have recently recovered a large quantity of what is believed to be Class A drugs following a raid at Broadlands.

A 52-year-old man was arrested on suspicion of being involved in the supply of controlled drugs and later released on police bail.

## Sentence passed after road crash

THE driver of a car which crashed in Southerndown, killing two of his friends, has been sentenced in Cardiff Crown Court. (See page 11 for a full report)

## Weight Loss and Cosmetic Surgery at Vale Healthcare

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## THE COLUMN YOU WRITE

## Readers' Letters

We reserve the right to edit all letters. We do NOT accept anonymous mail. Letters and emails MUST include full address and a contact telephone number. An email address alone is not sufficient. We will (in certain circumstances), protect a writer's identity, if requested. Please keep your letters BRIEF and address them to: The Editor, Glamorgan GEM Ltd, Graig House, 53 Eastgate, Cowbridge CF71 7EL.

## SHOUT'S REGENERATION REQUEST WAS 'IGNORED'

THE members of the Porthcawl SHOUT Forum are concerned that Bridgend County Borough Council's cabinet has approved the BCBC/Evans' owners agreement without prior public consultation.

Our request for information on the terms of the agreement has been ignored by cabinet, contrary to the council's own best practice guide to consultation that states: "We believe in a two-way consultation process of both informing and

## 'More to Wales than Cardiff Bay'

I WAS very disappointed to hear that parts of Wales, especially the south Wales valleys, are now the poorest places in Europe, even after all this Objective One funding from Europe. My question is, where has all this money gone?

We have a Labour-Plaid coalition in Cardiff, and still child poverty is increasing. We have a Tory-Lib Dem coalition in London trying to put right what 13 years of Labour has done to our country.

These valleys have never recovered since the early 80s when Maggie Thatcher shut the pits – but then we had factories providing employment – now they have closed!

## PORTHCAWL SKATEBOARD PARK: 'No consultation with residents'

SOME months ago, your newspaper carried reports showing the scale of objections from local residents to the Porthcawl Town Council's proposal to site a skateboard

park on open space at Heol-y-Goedwig, Porthcawl.

At that time, a large number of residents voiced their anger at not being consulted about the council taking away their open space, to put in a skateboard park that on Porthcawl Town Council's own admis-

listening." The complete absence of consultation on the proposals of this agreement, and its subsequent approval by cabinet that was shrouded in secrecy, means the residents of Porthcawl have been denied the right to be involved in the discussion process of this, in our opinion, flawed agreement.

The agreement is not the basis of the regeneration of Porthcawl, as the cabinet claims, but the basis of the regeneration of the Evans' finances over the next 20 years.

Des Rees,  
Chairman, Porthcawl SHOUT Forum

## A 'thank you' to Newton residents

MAY I, through your columns, offer my sincere thanks to the voters of Newton for electing me as their independent town councillor on March 3.

I also wish to thank everyone who has supported our on-line campaign and worked so hard to achieve this remarkable election result.

A total of 529 people demonstrated their desire for an independent representative, not tied to a political party.

The 'silent majority' – the good people of Newton – have supported our call for greater openness and transparency around our regeneration, together with better communication and con-

sultation from the town council as to how our local taxes are spent.

Now, of course, the hard work starts, and I am determined not to let down those people who have supported us.

I will ensure that Newton residents receive a newsletter updating them about what is happening.

I will attend PACT meetings, and I will organise a public meeting for Newton as soon as practicable.

In addition, I will work hard so that our on-line campaign is developed, to include a website.

I will report what happens at our town council meetings.

Coun Graham Walker, Porthcawl

(See page 1 story)

National Playing Fields Association.

Why, then, is it that some of our open space at Heol-y-Goedwig is being disposed of? This will make the situation even worse!

This is not a case of 'but' pure common-sense. There are many suitable alternative sites for a skateboard park all over Porthcawl if only greater thought, or dare I say consultation with the bill payers, had been sought at the beginning.

How many residents of Porthcawl are happy that open space is going to be sacrificed and for the town council to spend £85,000 of their money for a facility that only two people can use at any one time!

Mrs Denise Bridger, Porthcawl

## Community café is on the move

THE community café in the Ogmore Valley run by Crossroads Care is on the move.

Last Friday, the café moved from its previous venue at the Nantymoel Boys and Girls Club, known locally as the Mem, to Cwrt Gwalia in Ogmore Vale.

This sheltered housing complex is the new venue for the café which will operate each Friday from 12.30pm to 3.30pm. It is open to all including carers and the people they care for.

The café will be staged in the communal lounge at Cwrt Gwalia.

## PUPILS RISE TO QUIZ TEST



YOUNG people in Bridgend have been challenged by Madeleine Moon MP to take part in an International Women's Day quiz, which attempts to tackle people's assumptions, not to test knowledge.

"The pupils at Brynteg Comprehensive and Bridgend Girl Guides meeting in St Mary's Nolton enjoyed the quiz (above) and were shocked by many of the answers," the MP reported.

## 'SPECIAL CARE BABY UNIT WILL NOT CLOSE' – says board

THE Abertawe Bro Morgannwg Health Board has denied claims that the special care baby unit at the Princess of Wales Hospital is to close.

Press reports to that effect have been published, but a spokesman for the board said that more babies will be treated in Bridgend than before, as a result of changes being introduced.

The designation of two of the cots will be changed from long-term intensive care to short term intensive care.

Babies which need longer term intensive care will now go straight to Singleton Hospital in Swansea, where all staff have undergone specialist neo-natal care training, in line with new government guidelines.

Babies who need that level of care will be taken

to Singleton using a special transport service run by trained staff.

If possible, these babies will be born in the hospital if likely problems are diagnosed while the mother is still pregnant.

As babies improve, they may then be transferred back to Bridgend.

This means that babies needing short-term intensive care, or who are high dependency, will continue to be treated in Bridgend. Having the two extra cots will enable the unit to actually treat more babies in a year.

All the staff are being retained and the board has said that the changes are nothing to do with saving money, as the cots at Bridgend will be occupied more often.

In 2010, 60 babies were cared for in the intensive care cots in Bridgend and 21 were transferred to another unit for on-going care.

The ABM spokesman added: "There are strong medical reasons, supported by our neonatologists, for providing long term neonatal intensive care in the specialist neonatal unit in national standards but Swansea.

"Babies being cared for at the unit are the most unwell. Here they receive the best possible care, leading to better outcomes."

## Lions raising funds for local charities

THE Lions Club of Porthcawl started off the month of March with a formal dinner and dance at the Seabank Hotel, where they entertained the Mayor of Porthcawl and her consort, together with the president of Porthcawl Rotary and his wife, and other guests.

That was followed the next day with Porthcawl Lions stewarding the town council's pancake race held on Newton Green. A cold but enjoyable time was had by all.

Their next event is their popular book sale, to be held once again at the Seabank Hotel, on Saturday and Sunday, March 19-20.

Admission is free, doors open 10am.

More information can be obtained via lionclub36@hotmail.co.uk

As a result of the generosity of the people of Porthcawl, the charity Marie Curie Cancer Care benefited from the Porthcawl Lions' street collection (See photo on facing page).

The sum of £700 was presented to the charity by the president of Porthcawl Lions Club, Ralph Anslow – money raised on the day and a donation by the club.

Porthcawl Lions Club welcomes new members, male and female.

Those interested in helping their popular book sale, and enjoying an active social club, should contact Lion Don on 01656 788583, or visit the web page on porthcawl-lions.org.

DAVID RICHARDS

## Bridgend police station could be on the move

A question mark hangs over the future of Bridgend town police station.

The site at Cheapside is included in a new Bridgend town centre masterplan, which was approved in draft form by cabinet on Tuesday.

It now goes out for consultation.

In this plan, the site is earmarked for a retail development. It is close to Asda, Aldi, Wilkinsons and also to the Brackla Street centre, which is undergoing a multi-million pound revamp.

The GEM understands that the police have previously indicated that they could move the administrative and back-office functions to police headquarters at Waterton.

Instead, they would open a small station in the town, which would be used as a base for the officers who cover

Bridgend and which would also contain a lock-up.

It would also be possible to locate a new custody suite at HQ. Officers would take people under arrest the short distance from the town to the new suite.

Similar arrangements exist elsewhere with a new central custody suite at Cardiff Bay serving the eastern Vale and Cardiff.

Moving the station from the town centre would free up a very valuable piece of land right in the heart of Bridgend, which would give police finances a much-needed cash boost.

It would also help consolidate council plans to make the Bridgend South Side, as that area is called, more viable in terms of retailing.

We asked South Wales Police for a comment, but have not received any response to date.

## HIGH TIDE TIMES

(UNTIL MARCH 17)

The high tides listed in this week's GEM are those in Porthcawl. It should be remembered that along the coast, high tide times will vary. For instance, in Barry, the high point will be 20-25 minutes later.

DATE	Time	Ht	Time	Ht
10 Thur	09.12	9.0	21.28	8.8
11 Fri	09.46	8.6	22.02	8.4
12 Sat	10.20	8.1	22.47	7.9
13 Sun	11.21	7.6	23.53	7.5
14 Mon			12.49	7.2
15 Tues	01.36	7.4	14.23	7.6
16 Wed	02.58	8.1	15.39	8.4
17 Thur	04.09	8.7	16.43	8.9

While The GEM makes every effort to check the accuracy of tide tables, we recommend that anyone putting out to sea, or walking in an area where they could be cut off, should always check with a tide table specific to their location.

## LIONS, DAFFODILS, AND A SAINT!



**LEFT:**  
Members of Porthcawl Lions Club had a double reason for donning their daffodil fancy dress recently. They were collecting for Marie Curie's Daffodil Appeal – and it was close to St David's Day!

Photograph by MALCOLM NUGENT.

## St David's Day at St Theodore's



A FAMILY Service was held at St Theodore's Church, Kenfig Hill, to celebrate St David's Day.

The photograph (by Keith E Morgan) shows two very young girls in Welsh costume – Bethany and Alice – with their mother, Rev Jonathan Durley (Priest-in-Charge) and Grace Wylde of the ministry team.

Bethany and Alice were very

proud to dress up in their Welsh costumes as they are direct descendants of Evan James and his son James James of Pontypridd, who wrote the words and composed the music for the Welsh National Anthem - *Hen Wlad Fy Nhadau; Land of My Fathers*.

Also, a baptism was conducted at the same service, where five adults were Christened by the Rev Jonathan Durley.

## Man caught with drugs after a Porthcawl chase

**FOLLOWING** a chase in Porthcawl, it took two police officers to handcuff a drugs dealer, Cardiff Crown Court has heard.

by AJ SICLUNA

convictions for possessing cannabis with intent to supply and being concerned in the supply of it.

Regarding the affray, said Mr Warren, it occurred at a takeaway in Porthcawl and during the incident he had damaged the shop window with a pole.

He was sent to a young offender institution for a year.

He had been convicted

by

Yale Magistrates of

possessing cannabis with

intent to supply and had

been committed to the

Crown Court for sen-

tence.

Prosecutor John

Warren said that on

January 16 at about

11.30pm, Ford was seen

outside a club in

Porthcawl

arguing with

door staff.

When he saw the

police, he ran off.

He was

chased

and was seen to

discard

something

before

being

caught

in the car

park at the Seabank

Hotel.

The police believed he

had a weapon,

Mr

Warren

and he was

punched

twice.

It took, he said, two

police officers to hand-

cuff him.

Shortly after,

the

police

recovered

six

grammes

of

cannabis

which he had discarded,

and they also found him

in possession of £380 in

cash.

The police also found

scales,

and on his mobile

phone

text

messages

relating to the supply of

drugs.

He was said to have

been

arrested

on

the

charge

of

possession

of

cannabis

and

being

concerned

in the supply of it.

Planning consent was

granted some years ago

## Plan to help council and the chamber of trade work together

A NEW system is to be set up to ensure that decisions taken at the joint meetings between Porthcawl Town Council and the town's chamber of trade can be implemented.

The two bodies get together twice a year and the minutes of the most recent meeting, which was hosted by the council, have been reported back to town councillors.

The chamber has asked for the Porthcawl borough councillors to be invited to future meetings of the two bodies. They say that no mechanism exists to meet the borough members.

This was agreed – although four of the five members sit on

Porthcawl Town Council and are already invited. The fifth is Coun Ken Watts and he will be notified of meetings in future.

Chamber members reported that midweek turnover for shops in the town has increased since the Seabank Hotel was taken over by a coach company which brings in hundreds of visitors to the resort.

Coun David Newton Williams stated that a Speed, Power and Motion event was being organised by the Grand Pavilion from July 31 to August 7. It had been decided to try and organise the Sea Festival to coincide.

When the minutes of the meeting were discussed, Coun David Newton Williams said it had been a very enlightening meeting for those present and people went away fully briefed on what was happening.

She also pointed out that the disabled convenience in John Street was frequently locked with no attendant available to open it up. Alternative disabled toilets are located some distance away in Griffin Park, the Grand Pavilion or South Road.

She added: "The present condition of the John Street public conveniences is a disgrace to the town, especially one which, apart from residents, receives many visitors especially during the summer months.

"I do not think any member of the council would tolerate such conditions in their own bathrooms."

The town council will forward her complaint to BCBC and ask them what they intend to do.

Council leader David Deere said that the toilets were built by the old Porthcawl UDC in the 1920s, when his own grandfather had proposed providing them.

She said that she had been told by her husband and also by Coun Ken Watts that the urinals in the male toilets were "disgusting."

She added: "While these arrangements may have been acceptable in the

by JAYNE ISAAC

a time when Porthcawl was promoted as 'The Gem of the Seven Seas' but councillors said that it is advertised on the BCBC website. Events are advertised but it is difficult to advertise the town itself.

Coun Jill Sweet had this put on the agenda recently and she was asking why people who attend events on our behalf are not reporting back."

Coun Clarke said that the council needed to pursue the issue of the bandstand.

Rhiannon Kingsley, who is the town centre manager, came to us once but we have not had sight nor sound of her since. We must pursue this."

It was agreed to pursue the matter of the bandstand and find out if the electrics in it are safe and functioning.

THE final obstacle to the start of work to provide Porthcawl with a skateboard park has been overcome.

Porthcawl Town Council has agreed terms for a lease on the land at Heol y Goedwig, where the skateboard park is to be located.

The lease has been agreed with BCBC and that opens the way up for work to start. All the other issues to do

with planning have been resolved.

Porthcawl Conservative group leader David Deere said that he was hoping work would start within the next six weeks.

"It's been a long time coming and we have faced a lot of problems," he said.

"But we are determined to provide the young people of the town with this facility, and I hope it will be up and running in time for the summer."

with planning have

been resolved.

Porthcawl

with a skateboard

park has been

overcome.

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# LIFE ON THE ROAD WITH THE BRIDGEND MALE VOICE CHOIR



*The Bridgend Male Voice Choir.*

**NO-ONE can say that choristers get bored, with the variety of singing opportunities that often come their way.**

Bridgend male choir choristers are typically

representative.

After a hugely successful 50th birthday anniversary concert at Tabernacle Chapel, Pontcymmer, the choristers next found themselves at Torquay, competing for prize-money at the resort's famous Riviera International

Centre. Despite success on its visit two years earlier, this time it was not to be with all four top places filled by ladies barbershop choirs.

Having helped Cancer Research Wales to raise a significant sum earlier, it was next

the turn of Somerset's South Petherton Community Hospital to raise much needed funds from a choir concert at the village's St Peter and St Paul Church.

Returning to its favourite pastime – entertainment – a packed church and standing ovation rewarded the choristers for making the long journey.

To add to the variety, Bridgend Male Choir then joined choir

patron, Max Boyce at a private function in the Celtic Manor Resort, scene of Europe's 2010 Ryder Cup success.

In the same week that Max re-enacted the scene of his 'Live at Treorchy' recording, choristers were thrilled to join him at Newport in a show also featuring the Pearly Kings & Queens and compered by S4C's Dai Jones Llanilar. Next up is a wedding at Taibach, before a fundraising luncheon at Bridgend.

Guest speaker at the luncheon on Friday, May 6 is Scrum V's Rick O'Shea and an afternoon's enjoyment is guaranteed.

Rick will amuse those present with rugby stories and anecdotes from the local and national scene, as well as his thoughts on the Rugby World Cup later this year.

For tickets, call choir secretary, Gareth Rees on 07773 170373 or e-mail bookings@bridgendmalechoir.co.uk

## Case is dropped in 'strange circumstances'

**Report by AJ SICLUNA**

**IN what a judge at Cardiff Crown Court described as "strange circumstances", a heroin addict was given a conditional discharge for six months.**

Prosecutor John Lloyd said that the police followed a car into the car park of Bridgend Rugby Football Club. Jones was inside with two others, got out and approached the officers in an upset state.

She told them: "It's nothing to do with me, they borrowed my car to go to Newport."

She and two men were then arrested and officers found 5.56 grammes of heroin worth £440 in the car. Said the judge: "I am utterly baffled how the other two walked away from being charged."

Not charging them, he said, didn't make sense.

Jones was said to have convictions for supplying class A drugs, possessing such drugs and possessing cannabis with intent to supply.

Her counsel Jeanette Treharne said: "She actually informed the police of the drugs in the car. Unfortunately, she is a drug addict."

"The probation service say they can do no more for her. For her to be sentenced to custody would be wrong in principle. It is a highly unusual case. She was used by others."

## Porthcawl Rotarians help young homeless



*Left to right: Jean Schofield; Ivor Williams; Bill Stubbs, president Porthcawl Rotary; Annette Pugh, support worker, Ty Llamanau; Gareth Jones, area manager, Ty Llamanau; Ken Roberts, Rotary chairman, community and vocational. (Photography by Keith E Morgan).*

**PORTHCAWL** Rotary recently made a presentation to Ty Llamanau, New Road, Porthcawl, of seven electric irons, seven electric kettles and seven electric toasters.

Ty Llamanau ('Big Steps' in Old Welsh) run a supported housing project for homeless young persons.

### VA NEWMAN GLASS QUIZ LEAGUE

## Semi-final tie break

**ONLY the semi-finals of the Cup and Plate competitions were played on Monday, February 28.**

In the KO Cup, Six Bells were no match for Llangwydd Arms. Their score of 52 was quite good, but their opponents were in 'Mastermind' form and more than a match for most teams in the league. They ran up a whopping 81 points.

In the other Cup game, it was as close a win as expected. Maesteg Catholic Club edged it 55-54.

In the Plate, the lead changed hands a few times between Llangeinor AFC and Oldcastle 'B'. After the

first section, the AFC led 14-6 but Oldcastle pulled it back in the individual to 18-15.

By the time the 'roll-up' arrived, Oldcastle led 31-27 and decided to stick on two, whereas the AFC made four and were only 33-31 down.

At the end, AFC thought they had lost but after checking the scores were somewhat relieved to find it was drawn 43-all. Tie-break time. How many square-miles in France? Oldcastle guessed 52,000. AFC thought 270,000. The actual number is... 260,588.

Hugs and kisses at Llangeinor AFC's table, heads and shoulders down at the other. In the remaining

### COMMUNITY NEWS ST BRIDES MAJOR

*Your local correspondent is Patricia Bevan-Morgan (01656) 880418*

*IT is with great sadness that I report the death of Margaret Hughes, aged 89, after a long illness bravely borne.*

*Margaret, daughter of 'Brewers the Butchers' of Bridgend, was born 'over the shop' in Adare Street, Bridgend.*

*WICK Chapel will be holding the following services when everyone is warmly welcomed: March 14, March 20 (all at 3pm); April 10, Easter family service at 3pm.*

**CONGRATULATIONS to Eva Morgan of Blaen Dewi, Wick, who is celebrating her 90th birthday with family and friends on April 2.**

**WE ARE NOW ONLINE!**  
Visit:  
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[gemeditorial@tindlenews.co.uk](mailto:gemeditorial@tindlenews.co.uk)

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## Pencoed staff swim to Calais!



ABOVE: A map to help the swimmers with the route!

## Splashing out for a Breast Care Centre

EMPLOYEES from the Ortho Clinical Diagnostics (OCD) facility in Pencoed took to the water recently, taking up a challenge to raise funds for the Breast Centre Cardiff and Vale at Llandough Hospital.

As part of the popular 'Lengths for Life' fund raise campaign, employees chose to take a dip at nearby Pencoed Swimming Pool, using their lunchtime breaks as the perfect opportunity to complete lengths.

Funds raised by the campaign will be used to purchase equipment for the Breast Care Centre

and invest in new technology.

A spokeswoman said: "Staff were set the challenge of swimming the equivalent of the English Channel during the month of February. The trip from Dover to Calais and back is an impressive 52.4 mile in total, which translates to 3,372 lengths of the pool. 27 swimmers took part including Commonwealth swimmer Sara Lougher (who is the daughter of an OCD engineer), clocking up the lengths at lunch time in Pencoed Pool.

"Not only was the target met and the return trip to Calais completed but the group went on to swim an additional 701 lengths. The team can now officially add to the 'Lengths for Life' total having raised an impressive £2,000 so far."

Pencoed swimming pool centre manager, David Howley commented: "It's great to have people using our facility to raise money for charity. Lunchtime swimming is increasing popular as it offers customers a chance to unwind during a busy day. We've enjoyed getting behind the team and all of us at the centre would like to say congratulations to everyone who took part."

## Policing team enjoying the green spaces of Wildmill!

OFFICERS from the Morfa Wildmill Neighbourhood Policing Team have been helping plant trees and shrubs – as part of a local environment initiative.

PCSO Paul Galtry joined the Communities First team and local residents to carry out a tree and shrub planting event.

Communities First

worked with BTCV (British Trust for Conservation Volunteers) to get the funding from LEQ (Local Environmental Quality) to improve the community park in Wildmill.

Local resident Dafydd Balston drafted some designs while he was a volunteer with the FEI (Family Employment Initiative) project, which BTCV is running.

Benches have been made from ash sourced from the woodland, and handrails over the steps have also been made from the same wood.

A boardwalk and a bog garden have also been created, as well as paths throughout the park which will enable more residents to use the park.

A planning application has also been approved to create a wooden adventure play area to be sited as part of this project in the near future.

PCSO Galtry said:

"In spite of the wet weather it was a marvellous day. It brought together young people and adults from the community, Communities First, South Wales Police, V2C and BTCV."

"We planted fruit trees, native trees and the bog garden and all the trees were sourced from BTCV's Tree Life Centre in Bristol."



ABOVE: PCSO Paul Galtry and some of the volunteers on the boardwalk at Wildmill Community Park.

## SCARBOROUGH WEEKEND BREAK

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## Good The Big Society?

Do you believe in schools? Think libraries are important? Believe that not everything can be counted in pounds and pence? We'd like to invite you to join a million voices.

We know that the Westminster Government spending cuts will damage public services and will put more than a million people (UK wide) out of work. The cuts will hit the vulnerable, damage communities and undermine much of what holds us together as a society.

In the Vale of Glamorgan, the Council are already currently consulting over the privatisation of leisure services. Not only will this have a devastating impact on those already working in leisure but anyone using their local leisure centre could find it closing or see a substantial increase in cost to use the facilities.

Libraries are another area under threat with the Vale of Glamorgan, Bridgend, and Merthyr Tydfil all looking at axing fixed or mobile libraries.

The Westminster Government claim that 'there is no alternative and that we are all in this together', but we know that is just not the case. We know that it is completely unnecessary for the deficit to be eliminated in four years—we look at the deficit over the course of the last century, the current deficit is not particularly high. In fact, cutting too

fast and too deep will stifle economic growth and less tax revenue will be available. Furthermore, raising taxes such as VAT impact those on poor and middle incomes far more than those on higher earnings. Yet enormous bonuses are still being paid and those receiving them are not making a fair contribution.

We need to stand together and provide a voice for all those that have suffered unfairly at the hands of this UK government—those public service users that have seen reductions or closures to their public services, and a voice for those public sector workers that have lost their jobs. We need to show that we reject the argument that there is no alternative. Of course the recession has damaged our economy, but savage cuts will only serve to damage it further.

Put 26th March in your diary and ask your colleagues, friends and family to put it in theirs. Transport is being arranged by UNISON in the Vale of Glamorgan – contact us now to book your seat and March for the Alternative.



Show your support on March 26 and March for the Alternative. For details on travel arrangements to the March and to get involved in your local campaign or visit our website: [www.unison.org.uk/26march](http://www.unison.org.uk/26march) or contact [MFTA Wales@unison.co.uk](mailto:MFTA Wales@unison.co.uk). Tel: 029 2072 9453

# March for public services

# 26 March

On 26 March thousands of people from all over the UK will march in London to speak out against the government's savage and unfair spending cuts.

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Join us in UNISON. Call 0845 355 0845 now, or visit [unison.org.uk/join](http://unison.org.uk/join)

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a million voices for public services

# IT'S A ST DAVID'S DAY EXTRAVAGANZA FOR NEWTON PRIMARY SCHOOL PUPILS



ST DAVID'S DAY was celebrated in style in Porthcawl by the pupils at Newton Primary School, where there were traditional costumes, for boys and girls, on show in abundance.

The children enjoyed their eisteddfod, and it was a day of song, dance and recitation that delighted all present.



PHOTOGRAPHS by MALCOLM NUGENT



## NORTH BRIDGEND NEWS

A message for all readers in the north of Bridgend who would like to have items included in the community news columns of The GEM:

If you wish to submit reports on any social activity in this region, please contact me. I am very approachable and will endeavour to include every newsworthy subject.

Contact details: CLIVE MITCHELL  
1 Tyn-Y-Coed Close, Sarn, Bridgend CF32 9NQ  
TEL: 01656 725399  
email: tyncoed1@yahoo.co.uk



### Cawl a Chan

I HAD the pleasure of attending Ogmore Valley Male Voice Choir's 'Cawl a Chân' on St David's day in Canolfan Bethlehem, an old chapel which the choir procured and renovated, where they hold a number of concerts during the year.

Everyone in the choir made the audience welcome in a wonderful relaxed atmosphere, largely due to musical director Eira Paskin.

Two choirs provided the evening's entertainment, the Ogmore Valley choir and Cantorian Coety, and for both the hard working musical director is Eira.

The concert also included Cantorian Coety with 'Gwahoddiad', 'Elen Fwyn' and my favourite 'Pan Fo'r Nos Yn Hir' ('When a night is long').

Cantorian Coety mixed choir took the stage to perform 'Deryn y Bwn', 'Cenin Aur', and 'Yfory'.

The male choir completed the first half, with soloist soprano Catrin Eleri Jenkins joining them in singing the 'Gaelic Blessing' in Welsh and English, the verses having been translated into Welsh by a member of the Cantorian Coety choir.

Bowls of cawl and Welsh cakes were served by members of the male voice choir during the interval, and afterwards the audience was encouraged to join the choir in singing 'Calon Lan', 'Moliannwn' and 'Cymru Fach' (the last being sung with Catrin). The evening concluded with 'Hen Wlad fy Nhadau'.

### History search

Retired Persons Club recently held its AGM when both its long-serving secretary and treasurer, Mr and Mrs T Llewellyn, tendered their resignations, both having suffered ill health over the past 12 months.

The club was recently visited by headteacher, Mrs Sue Pilcher, members of staff and pupils from Tondu Primary School involved in a project to discover how residents from Aberkenfig coped in the Second World War.

The pupils sat down with each of the 30 members and filled in questionnaire forms they had carefully prepared.

The school had found an award made in the name of a Mr Danial,

during the war years. The pupils were trying to locate either Mr Danial or any relatives so that this award can be presented to them.

The school would welcome any information, and would appreciate copies of old photographs of Aberkenfig during the war.

The club meets at the Len Evans Centre, Heol Persondy, every Wednesday afternoon between 2pm and 4pm. New members are welcome. Telephone Joyce John on 01656 720823/722674.

### Closure concerns

*FOLLOWING the announced closure of Pandy Infant's School and its amalgamation into Tondu Primary School; a drop-in event to address any concerns that local people have, takes place tomorrow (March 11) at Tondu Primary School at 2.30pm.*

### Appeal concert

THERE will be a concert at Aberkenfig Bible Church, Pandy Road, tomorrow (Friday, March 11) starting at 7.30pm, to raise funds for cancer research.

Providing the entertainment are Brackla Community Chorus and Pencoed Silver Band.

Musical director Gillian Ridout has been with the mixed voice choir for about 12 years, and the accompanist is Gareth Waite. The choir performs a variety of light classical and popular music.

All money raised from the sale of tickets (obtainable at the door) is being donated to the Royal Marsden Hospital cancer research department.

### Ladies choir

Côr Merched Cwm Garw (Garw Valley Ladies Choir) founded 28 years ago, is holding its annual concert on Friday, March 25, at 7.15pm in Blaengarw rugby club.

Members have been busy rehearsing under Mr Alec Brookes, musical director and accompanist for the last 10 years. Also taking part are Ogmore Valley Male Voice Choir and Pencoed Silver Band.

The ladies' choir rehearses in the Pontycymer old age pensioners centre on Friday between 7.30pm and 8.30pm. Call Mary on 01656 871024 for details.

**Sri Lanka benefit**

THE postponed concert at St Bride's Church, Llansantffraid, is now

being held on Friday, March 18, at 7pm. The entertainment is again being provided by Ogmore Valley Male Voice Choir. Tickets £5, on sale at the door; all money raised will go to church funds.

Parishioners of Llansantffraid, Betws and Aberkenfig are joining together in a special service on Sunday, March 20 at 10am when members supporting the charity 'Tea Leaf Trust' based in Sri Lanka, set up to educate tea pickers.

Having lived and worked in that country and seen the working conditions of the people there, I can fully endorse the efforts of this Trust.

Mr Tim Pare, a director of the trust, will tell the congregation of the work the trust does in helping these unfortunate people.

At the recent annual meeting of the LBA mothers' union, branch leader Raema thanked retiring secretary Jane Phillips for her efforts over the years.

It is the 90th anniversary of the formation of the branch this year and members will be having afternoon tea at Bryngarw House on May 18.

### Volunteers sought

*LAST October, St David's Church, Betws began encouraging young children to come along on Tuesdays after school to take part in fun activities. Numbers are increasing and volunteer helpers are being sought.*

### Hunger lunches

IN support of the charity Christian Aid, a lunch consisting of a bowl of soup, bread and a Welsh cake will be provided to everyone at Smyrna Chapel, Penyfai, on Saturday, March 12 between 12noon and 1.15pm. The lunch costs £2.50 and all money raised will be donated to the charity.

### School donation

*OGMORE Vale Primary School headteacher, Paul Booth, thanks everyone who took part in the recent fancy dress competition which raised the magnificent total of £145, which has been donated to the Red Cross.*

### Choir AGM

MEMBERS of Côr Meibion Cwm Garw (Garw Valley Male Voice Choir) are advised that the annual general meeting is to take place after rehearsals on Monday, March 14.

## Methane gas test plan in Maesteg

A PLANNING application to drill for shale gas in Maesteg is to be discussed by Bridgend planners today, Thursday.

The application from UK Methane Ltd of Bridgend Industrial Estate, is to drill an exploratory borehole on the site of St John's Colliery at Cwmdu, Maesteg.

The application is to drill into the Numarian shale bed, which lies beneath the

Westphalian coal measures at 3,000 feet in depth.

Shale gas is a pure form of methane which is widely used elsewhere in the world. It is regarded as a clean energy source.

The application is to drill and then test the gas. The operation will last 14 weeks including seven weeks of actual drilling, which will carry on for 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

The nearest property is

Blaencwmdu Farm, which is 350 yards away and the access will be at Heol Faen. Objections have been lodged by neighbouring farmers, including Sara Jones at Cwmdu Ganol, Em Howells at Bryndafaid and Mr and Mrs Evans, also at Bryndafaid.

They have objected on the grounds of noise, possible pollution of water sources, vibration, damage to the roads serving the area and

increased traffic, but there are no objections from the Environment Agency or the Countryside Council for Wales.

Previous drilling to test for methane has already taken place on site.

Officers are recommending that temporary consent be granted. It comes before the development control committee at Bridgend today.

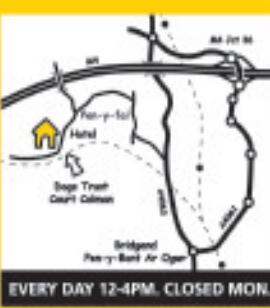
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# Sandville's church has a new font!

THE Sandville Self-Help Centre has its own church – the small but perfectly-formed St Michael's Church – and now that place of worship has been made complete by the addition of a baptismal font.

The font was dedicated recently by the Rev Richard Spencer, the former parish priest of Kenfig Hill, who came back to perform the service from his new parish in Cardiff.

The font was donated by local historian and photographer Keith E Morgan in memory of his late wife, Malvina, and he told The GEM: "I knew that Sister Gwyneth Poacher was looking for a font and, at first, I thought that it would not be difficult to find one."

"A number of churches in south Wales have closed in recent years, but it was proving hard to find any of their fonts. After a while, I decided to commission one to Gwyneth's specifications, and pay for it myself."

The church was full for the service, with many more people inside the Sandville watching on closed circuit TV. Considering that Wales were playing Italy at the same time, it was an impressive turnout.

After a welcome from Gwyneth Poacher, and an introduction from Rev Spencer, the opening hymn was 'The Lord is my Shepherd' – the same hymn that had been sung at Keith and Malvina's wedding in 1960, at St Theodore's Church, Kenfig Hill.

At the conclusion, the blessing was given by another clergyman from the area, Rev Canon Godfrey James, who was Rev Richard Spencer's predecessor in the Kenfig Hill parish.

## Royal wedding

PORTHCAWL Town Council has set up a special sub-committee to look at ways of marking the royal wedding in April.

The town council has also agreed to make a contribution towards the firework display being organised by the chamber of trade to celebrate the royal nuptials. A sum of £200 is to be donated.

The council will send a card of congratulations to Prince William and Kate Middleton.

They are also asking anyone who is getting married on the same day – April 29 – and who is from Porthcawl to get in touch.

Photographs by  
**MALCOLM NUGENT**



**Ogmore MP's surgeries**  
HUW IRRANCA DAVIES, MP for Ogmore, will be holding the following surgeries this month:

Saturday, March 12 between 12.30pm-1.30 pm in the Pontcymmer area; Friday, March 25 between 11am-12noon in the Bettws area; Thursday, April 7 between 10.30am-11.30am in Gilfach Goch area; Tuesday, April 12 between 2pm-3pm in the Cefn Cribwr area. Constituents will need to contact the constituency office on 01656 737777 to arrange an appointment.



Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> March

## BRIDGEND PET DAY

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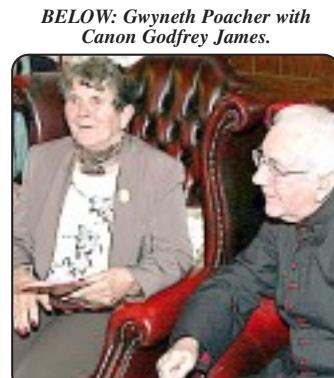
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ABOVE: The Rev Richard Spencer blesses the font.



ABOVE: Keith Morgan and Gwyneth Poacher with the baptismal font.



BELOW: Gwyneth Poacher with Canon Godfrey James.



Bridgend's MP knows where to find local news!

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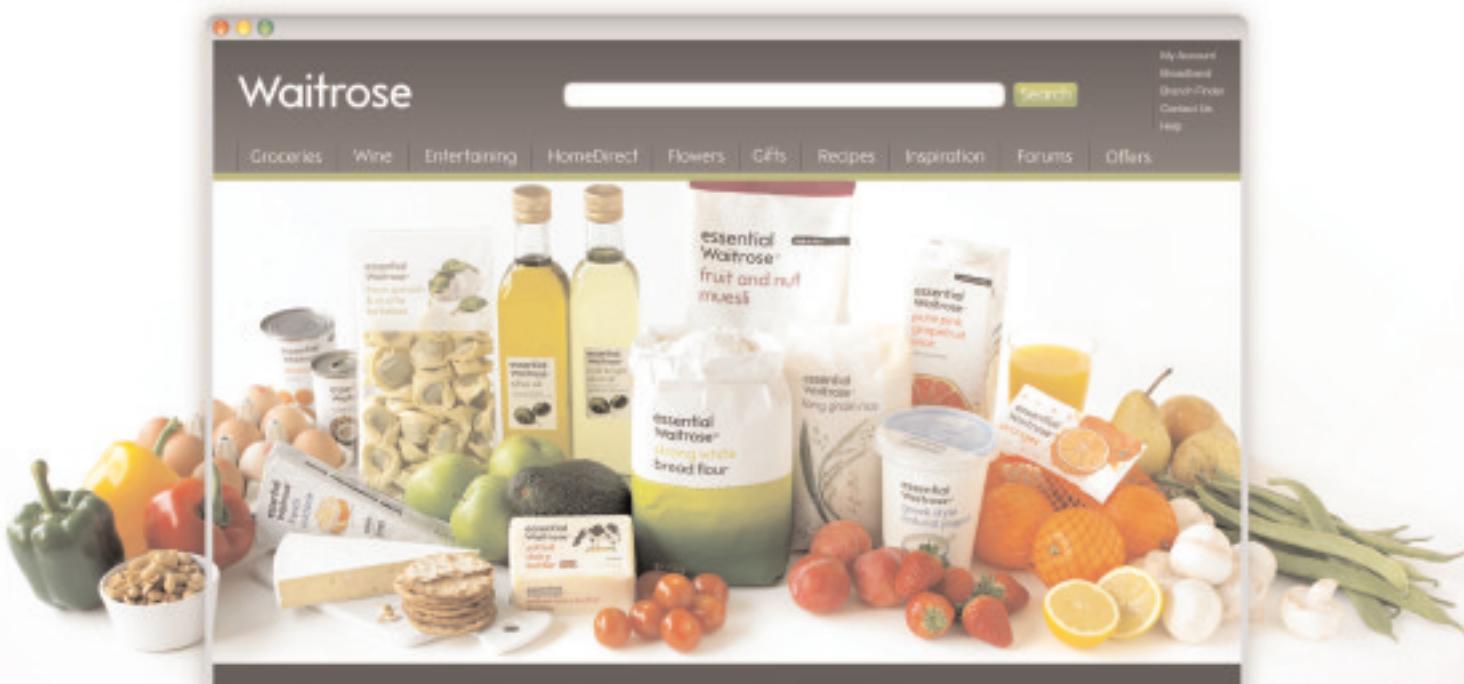
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## A 'fabulous eisteddfod' at Ysgol Gymraeg Sant Curig



Aimee Canty and Lewis Bumford holding the winning shield for the Hafren house.

MARCH 4 was a special day for pupils at Ysgol Gymraeg Sant Curig, as they held their annual school eisteddfod.

All 430 pupils took part, either on stage or working on different topics in their classes and activities included reciting, singing, dancing, art work, handwriting and playing an instrument.

Manon William, a pupil from year-6, completed the 'double' by winning the crown and the chair for her poetry and her story writing.

It was a close run event throughout, but eventually captains Lewis Bumford and Aimee Canty lifted the



Manon William receiving her crown and chair.

shield for the Hafren house for the first time.

Headteacher Mrs Owen, said: "It was a fabulous day and all the children gave a 100 per cent effort in everything that they did. We are all very proud of each and every one of them."

## Chairman gives 'scenic tour' of the National Trust Wales

THE March meeting of Ystradgwen and district WI took place on another very cold winter evening, but there was good turnout to welcome the speaker, Mr Roger Sellick, chairman of the National Trust in Wales.

He gave members a 'tour' through Wales, highlighting the beautiful and very varied properties owned and cared for by the Trust.

It started in Anglesey, Plas Newydd, an elegant house on the banks of the Menai Straits, boasting spectacular

views of Snowdon and including an impressive mural of a vast seascape by Rex Whistler.

We travelled to Bodnant Gardens in Conwy where the gardens are quite stunning and on to Plas yn Rhiw, an intimate manor house with more spectacular views - across Cardigan Bay.

The tour stopped in mid Wales to admire Powys Castle, a fantastic setting for open air concerts in the summer.

The tour also took in Chirk Castle, a magnificent

14th century fortress situated in the Welsh Marches.

Corrina Turner gave a vote of thanks to Mr Sellick and president Jan Foyle chaired the business for the month.

In June, a small group is visiting Blenheim Palace and in August, a larger group is looking forward to a day at Denman College.

*The date for the next meeting is April 6. On March 23, members are meeting at the White Lion in Ystradgwen.*

EL

## Glamorgan Law launched

**BEECH & CO**, commercial property and business law specialists based at Cowbridge, have celebrated their merger with Peter Davies, Solicitors, of Cardiff who merged with James & Bulteel and Anthony Jewell & Co of Pontypridd earlier this year.

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**glamorganlaw**

The firms have now joined together under the umbrella of a new business venture called Glamorgan Law.

The launch was celebrated at an event attended by south Wales business leaders at The Bear Hotel in Cowbridge on St David's Day.

A keynote address was given by Dyfrig John of HSBC and a response by Peter Davies, managing partner of the newly-merged firm and president of the Cardiff Law Society.

Richard Beech said: "Glamorgan Law represents a great opportunity for us to offer our rapidly-growing client base in

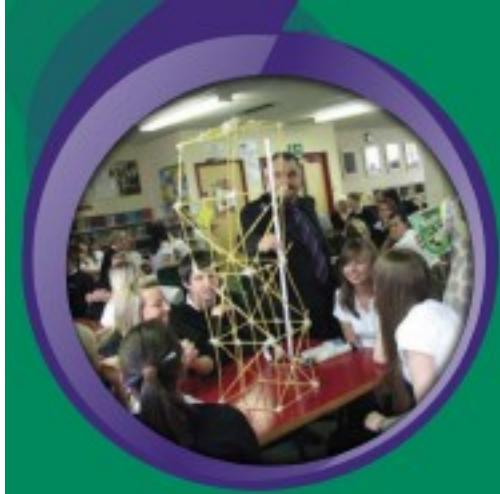
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south Wales and elsewhere a full range of services.

"Each member firm of Glamorgan Law will retain its individual identity and specialist focus but will be able to call on the skills of the other parts of the new business when needed. It's good for us and good for our clients.

Glamorgan Law will be able to provide services, including commercial property, business advice, house buying and selling, wills, probates and trusts and now professional negligence, employment law, family law and litigation."

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**BARRY**  
**FORM**

# Driver is sentenced after crash which killed two friends

TWO teenage boys with glowing futures ahead of them died instantly when a car in which they were passengers crashed into a wall near Southerndown, after the vehicle went out of control as it travelled through a deep pool of water, Cardiff Crown Court has heard.

The driver Nicholas Landon (18) of Bridgend was at the wheel of his Suzuki Swift and had passed his test a month before. He had been travelling between 64.6 mph and 71.4 mph on the narrow, badly lit road before losing control.

Landon was sentenced to 20 months in a young offender institution and disqualified from driving for three years after pleading guilty to causing the deaths of Roy Thomas and Alex Jones by careless driving.

A friend of the group, Jack Germain (19) of Bridgend, who had also been travelling at a high speed along the same road, and who was overtaken by Landon, admitted a charge of careless driving and was fined £500, ordered to pay £100 costs and was disqualified from driving for six months.

Judge Neil Bidder said Landon had taken the lives of his two passengers.

"They were all close friends, only 17, living happy and fruitful lives with great potential futures".

He added: "No sentence I impose will bring them back, nor will any sentence or words remove the pain and suffering of their family and friends."

Both men, he said, had been driving at "grossly excessive speeds".

Landon, he said, must have seen the water but effectively ignored the conditions.

"The deaths of the two have had serious consequences for their families and they have suffered intense grief."

Inexperience, he said, was a contributory factor, and the case represented

**Report by AJ SICLUNA**

a tragedy for Landon and his family. The surface water, said the judge, should not have been permitted to remain on that road.

When the police interviewed Landon, he said the incident occurred on November 16, 2009 on the Bridgend to Southerndown road near the Pelican pub.

The road had a 40-mile an hour limit.

Moments before the crash, Landon had overtaken a Ford Fiesta driven by Germain.

"Landon was driving in a careless manner well above the speed limit," he said. Earlier, they had all gathered at Bridgend retail park and decided to go to the coast.

The pub landlord had referred to the stretch of water as a lake, 28.5 metres long, wide and deep.

It posed, said Mr Williams, a substantial unforeseeable risk for drivers and had been there five days.

The landlord himself had sometimes physically unblocked the drain and had not seen local

authority staff do that.

Mr Williams said: "It represented an accident waiting to happen."

Landon would have seen the water when only five metres from it. Landon himself, said Mr Williams, was seriously injured. He was in a coma for five days with collapsed lungs, multiple fractures and a torn bladder.

"He would do everything in his power to turn back the clock. He is deeply sorry he cannot, and for what he has done."

Peter Davies, for Germain, said he immediately contacted the emergency services and tried to seek responses from those in the crashed car.

"He has lived under the cloud of this matter for some time. Luckily, he dealt with the surface water without incident."

"The profound effect of what happened will last a lifetime. It has haunted him."

Landon, the court heard, will have to take a special test of competence to drive.

## Currying favour with Eisteddfod!



LEFT: Dr Dylan Jones, chairman of the Eisteddfod's executive committee; Janet Davies, event organiser; Anhar Miah of The Mughal.

**LOCAL fundraising for the National Eisteddfod 2012 in the Vale has got under way, with a successful first event for the Welsh St Donats area appeals committee.**

Only the driver, said Mr Elias, demonstrated any vital signs. A doctor arrived and found both passengers dead.

The puddle of water,

he said, had been due to a blocked drain cover.

There were indications that the crashed car had not braked. The vehicle hit the wall at between 40 and 50 mph.

Mr Elias said that if Landon had been driving within the speed limit he could have stopped when he saw the water and

MA'R ymgrych leol i godi arian tuag at Eisteddfod Genedlaethol Bro Morgannwg 2012 gan bwylgor apel Llanddunwyd a'r Cylch wedi cychwyn gyda noson bwyddianus yn Mwty'r Mughal ar gyron y Bont-Faen.

Daeth oddetutu 100 o bobl ynglyd i fwynhau ac i gymdeithas nos Sul ddiwethaf (6 Mawrth), gan godi dros £900.

Dyweddodd trefnydd y noson Janet Davies, "Ry n'i'n fach iawn far ein digwyddiad codi arian cyntaf wedi bod mor lwyddianus a dwi'n dra ddiolchgar i Anhar Miah a'i dim yn y Mughal am roi cymaint a groeso i ni. Diolch hefyd i bawb wnaeth gefnogi a gweud y noson yn un hwlwys dros ben."

Ffwrnwm Rygbi yng Ngwylwr'r Bear ar nos Iau, Mai 19 yw digwyddiad nesaf y pwylgor apel yma. Yn ymuno ar y panel gyda Simon Easterby, hyfforddwr y Sgarlets a chynhaliwr y chwaraewr rygbi rhwng-ladol Iwerddon, fydd nifer o enwogion eraill y byd rygbi.

Ceir tocyngau a mwy o fanylion oddi wrth Sian-Elin Jones ar 01446 781129.

**Cyrra ar Gyron y Bont-Faen**



## St David's Day celebrations at Welsh medium playgroup

THE children at Cylch Meithrin Bethesda celebrated with Welsh songs, daffodil hat making and Welsh cakes in Barry. All the staff and children dressed in national costume or something suitable in red!

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# Voters in the Vale and Bridgend are poles apart when it comes to referendum

GEM readers will probably be aware that this newspaper covers a wide area – in the main the two areas covered by the two local authorities of the Vale of Glamorgan and of Bridgend county borough.

Politically, Bridgend was held by Labour, even at the low point of the party's fortunes at the last election, while the Vale has been a key marginal for as long as anyone can remember.

However, the two areas have never been further apart than at last week's referendum on law making powers for Wales.

Bridgend was rock solid in support, with more than double the voters saying 'yes' than saying 'no'.

On a turnout of 35.4 per cent, there were 25,063 in favour (68.1 per cent of votes cast), and only 11,736 on the negative side.

However, in the Vale there was a higher turnout (39.7 per cent) but the voters came within a whisker of joining Monmouth as the only borough to say no.

The yes voters

**REPORT by PHILIP IRWIN**

totalled 19,430, gaining 52.5 per cent of the vote, while the negatives added up to 17,551.

As the only local authority to vote no was Monmouth – widely perceived to be the most Anglicised – does this mean that the Vale is the same?

Alternatively, does it mean that the Conservatives failed to get in step behind Welsh leader Nick Bourne, who was part of the all-party push for a yes vote?

Surprisingly, both yes campaigns were hailing the result a success.

Tim Thomas of Plaid was the campaign co-ordinator for Bridgend county borough – working alongside First Minister Carwyn Jones, although he will be standing against him in the May Assembly elections – and he put the good yes result down to hard work.

He said: "I believe our close cooperation was one of the prime reasons why 68.1 per cent of the county borough voted in favour of primary law-making

powers for Wales.

"This was not only the seventh highest yes vote in Wales, but also the biggest swing in favour of a yes from the 1997 referendum in the whole of Wales."

The much narrower win in the Vale was, according to yes campaign co-ordinator and Castlemend Labour Vale Councillor, Chris Elmore, was also down to team work.

He said: "A yes vote in the Vale is incredible in my view. This is down to the hard work of all those who worked on the campaign locally, from across the political divide.

"When you consider that those who voted no in 1997 totalled almost 65 per cent of all votes cast, achieving more than 50 per cent voting yes is incredible, and just shows that people in the Vale are more supportive of the Assembly and what it is doing to improve Wales."

Coun Elmore said that over the last 12 years, voters had become more aware of how the Assembly could make a difference.

He said: "Clearly the commitment of the constituency AMs, Jane Hutt and Lorraine Barrett, and those who have served on the regional list, has also shown voters that AMs and the Assembly are committed to the many communities of Wales including the Vale."

Kevin Mahoney, who campaigned for a no vote in the Vale, felt that the resources of the yes campaign had been too much to counter.

## Leekes store introduces new Monsoon bed linen for spring

UPDATING bed linen is a quick and easy way of giving your bedroom a whole new look – and what better way to inject some fresh, spring colour into your boudoir than with the new ranges from famous high-street name, Monsoon?

Sally Coombes, bed linen expert at Leekes, said: "Like we have in other rooms in the house, we're moving away from the good old neutral palette and

gaining confidence when it comes to colour.

"As the 2011 collections from Monsoon shows, it's all about subtle colour additions that are lifting the overall look and feel of the bedroom, rather than an invasion of abstract pattern and acid brights, she said.

"It's a great time to be giving your bedroom a whole new look, Sally added."

# Police Inspector in court over child sex offences

A police inspector from the Coed y Cwrt area has been charged with a series of child sex offences.

South Wales Police Inspector Geraint Lloyd Evans was charged last week with five offences:

1. Conspiring with others to incite engagement in unlawful sexual activity with a child under 13;

2. Possession of Section-I ammunition;

3. Three offences of making indecent images of children;

4. Possession of four child abuse images;

5. Possession of extreme pornography.

Llanelli Magistrates Court decided that Inspector Evans will be held on remand and will appear at Swansea Crown Court tomorrow (March 11) along with three members of the public who have also been charged with offences related to indecent images of children.

The Independent Police Complaints Commission (IPCC) is managing an investigation by South Wales Police (SWP) Public Protection Unit into allegations that 47-year-old Inspector Evans was in possession of indecent images of children.

A separate SWP criminal investigation in connection with this case has led to the arrest of four members of the public. Three have been charged and are being held on remand.

The IPCC Commissioner for Wales, Tom Davies said:

"I am satisfied that this is being thoroughly investigated. It would be inappropriate to comment further now that the judicial process has started."

SWP statement said: "A 49-year-old male from the Cardiff area, a 49-year-old male from the Neath area, and a 54-year-old male from the Ross-on-Wye area, appeared at Llanelli Magistrates Court on March 3, 2011, charged with a number of

offences related to indecent images of children, including conspiracy to incite or engage in sexual activity with a child under the age of 13 years – contrary to Section 1.1 of the Criminal Law Act 1977. "All three men were remanded in custody. They are due to appear at Swansea Crown Court on Friday, March 11."

The statement went on: "A 49-year-old male from the Ystrad Mynach

area also appeared at Llanelli Magistrates Court on March 4, charged in relation to indecent images of children, including conspiracy to incite or engage in sexual activity with a child under the age of 13 years – contrary to Section 1.1 of the Criminal Law Act 1977.

"He was remanded in custody and is due to appear before Swansea Crown Court on Friday, March 11..."

# Man jailed after biting an innocent passer-by

by AJ SICLUNA

A YOUNG couple walking home through the centre of Barry were the victims of a totally unprovoked attack on New Year's Eve, Cardiff Crown Court heard.

Craig Harris had the side of his jaw bitten by 23-year-old Ricky Smith, who then attacked Mr Harris' girlfriend, Suzanne Ford, by rugby tackling her to the pavement, said prosecutor Tony Trigg.

Smith, of Barry, was jailed for a total of 20 months. He admitted wounding Mr Harris, causing Miss Ford actual bodily harm, and a breach of a conditional discharge for shoplifting.

Said Judge Philip Richards: "This was quite a nasty and frightening attack on two innocent people on New Year's Eve when everyone should have been happy and celebrating. You used your teeth as a weapon, as well as your fists."

Mr Trigg said that as the couple walked through Barry, they heard Smith shouting at them, something which he believed would provoke a confrontation.

He ran across the road and punched

Mr Harris hard in the face. There was a struggle and Smith lashed out and Mr Harris was stunned. Suddenly, Smith put him into a hold and bit the side of his face.

Mr Harris later said it felt as if he was trying to rip the side of his face off.

Seconds later, Smith rugby tackled Ms Ford.

Mr Harris was taken to hospital and the wound was stitched under anaesthetic. He was shocked and upset, and underwent regular blood tests to check he had no infections.

Ms Ford had grazing to her knees, scratch marks and sore ribs.

Smith was traced through CCTV footage and, said Mr Trigg, was well known to the police.

He was said to have convictions for a public order offence, assaulting the police, shoplifting, battery and theft.

Claire Pickthall representing him said: "He had a difficult childhood and has had difficulties with alcohol. There was no justification for what he did and it involved mistaken identity. He was gutted when he thought of the injuries he inflicted on Mr Harris."

# 'We aim to raise awareness on consequences of cuts' – SAYS LOCAL CAMPAIGN GROUP

TRADE UNIONS and community groups throughout the Vale have united to campaign against proposed cuts.

The 'Vale of Glamorgan Against the Cuts' (VGAC) group says it is working to raise awareness of the impact that the cuts are having and will increasingly have within the local community.

VGAC is concerned about the long-term impacts that will arise within Cardiff and Vale healthcare as a result of the £80 million shortfall that will arise from the April 2011 budget. The group says that with such a massive budget shortfall, coupled with the application of recruitment freezes in certain areas, the impact for patients could be catastrophic.

VGAC is also alarmed that attacks are being made on essential services such as school crossing patrols facing attack – it is the right of every single school child to travel to school safely, and that level of safety is being put in jeopardy to save money.

"It is shocking to see services such as school crossing patrols facing attack – it is the right of every single school child to travel to school safely, and that level of safety is being put in jeopardy to save money.

"In Wales, we are experiencing a substantial budget reduction.

There is already an education funding gap of £604 per pupil in our education system – yet Mr Cameron claims that

Wales is receiving 'fair deal'.

Frankly, I don't think Wales is receiving a fair deal.

"With further job losses

expected to be announced soon, VGAC is determined to

## ADVERTISING FEATURE

engage the community and provide a voice for people who are against public spending cuts.

The 'Vale of Glamorgan Against the Cuts' (VGAC)

spokesperson, said: "We are experiencing the biggest challenge for a generation. The Westminster government is making a political choice to cut Baby Bonds, Child Benefit and Sure Start – and they now have Disability Living Allowance and Incapacity Benefit in their sights.

"It is shocking to see services such as school crossing patrols facing attack – it is the right of every single school child to travel to school safely, and that level of safety is being put in jeopardy to save money.

"In Wales, we are experiencing a substantial budget reduction. There is already an education funding gap of £604 per pupil in our education system – yet Mr Cameron claims that Wales is receiving 'fair deal'.

Frankly, I don't think Wales is receiving a fair deal.

"With further job losses

expected to be announced soon, VGAC is determined to

to support those communities. Our society and welfare state is being made to pay because of the mistakes made by the financial sector.

"There is £123 billion of uncollected, avoided and evaded taxes that could be collected by the UK government – yet they would rather allow those less well off in society to take the pain.

"VGAC is working to highlight these issues."

The Vale of Glamorgan Against the Cuts campaign has launched a Facebook page under the same name.

An event has also been scheduled to take place on March 12 at Barry Town Hall.

A brass band will be playing and campaign coordinators will be available to talk about any cuts or service reductions that might be concerning local people.

For further information about how to get involved, or to join the campaign group as an individual, or as a community group, please contact Jenny Griffin on 029 20729463.

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# After the conclusive 'YES' vote in the Referendum on streamlining the work of the National Assembly... WALES IS MOVING ON!

It has been heartening to hear the wide range of positive responses to the result of the Referendum last week, which gave a clear expression of public opinion by voting to improve the way laws are made in Wales.

I have enjoyed the last few weeks of discussion on the doorstep, in shopping areas and at meetings explaining what the referendum was all about and encouraging my constituents to vote Yes last Thursday.

*My simple message was that it would make Wales a stronger part of the UK, ensuring that laws that only affect Wales, such as health, transport, housing and education, are dealt with in Wales.*

With the combined efforts of all those involved in the Referendum campaign, the message got through to enough people to win the vote last Thursday with a respectable turn-out in the Vale of Glamorgan, given the constitutional complexities of the Referendum.

But I am also clear that we owe it to those who voted No or didn't vote at all, that we still have to prove our worth and serve their needs and meet their concerns.

Over the past year, I have been negotiating with the Chief

Secretary to the Treasury, Danny Alexander MP, to make the case for Wales to have more flexibility in the level and management of our finances.

The One Wales Government appointed an independent Commission chaired by the economist, Professor Gerry Holtham, which reported last year.

The Commission concluded that we are underfunded by £300million as a result of the application of the out-dated Barnett formula, which is used to calculate our share of funding from the UK Government.

Gerry Holtham has proposed that a funding 'floor' be implemented to prevent further funding shortfalls emerging via this formula.

His recommendations received unanimous all-party support in the Assembly.

The Chief Secretary has said the UK Government would consider the Holtham recommendations after the Referendum and cited the importance of reducing the budget deficit as a priority.

We are playing our part in this respect, choosing to absorb the £163m revenue and capital budget cuts imposed on us last year and securing Assembly support for a budget for 2011-13, which seeks to protect our public services and support our economic recovery. I have now written to the Chief Secretary to say that

the positive result from the Referendum should now give the green light to opening meaningful discussions about the Holtham Commission recommendations for fairer funding mechanisms for Wales.

The First Minister, Rt Hon Carwyn Jones AM made a statement to the Assembly on Tuesday, March 8 on 'the next steps' following the positive result on Thursday and he said that moving forward with the Holtham recommendations was part of the work that needed to be taken forward.

We have a range of responsibilities as elected representatives and Ministers serving in the

## ASSEMBLY NOTES



by Jane Hutt AM  
(Assembly Minister for Business and Budget)

National Assembly for Wales, crafting the right policies for Wales, ensuring that we have an adequate funding base and developing legislation when it is appropriate to do so.

As Carwyn Jones said this week: "Thursday's Referendum was more than the streamlining of the law-making process - it demonstrated that Wales is an ambitious country, eager to get on."

I am eager to play my part, as Finance Minister, to ensure we have an adequate funding base, albeit constrained by UK Government cuts, taking our share of the budget deficit reduction, but making the clear case for an improved and fairer settlement.

We engage with the UK Government with a stronger voice as a result of last week's vote and as one young person who went out to vote yes, said to me on Friday: "The world has moved on as a result of the vote!"

This is about us showing that we have got confidence to do the best we can for Wales - our economy, our communities, our young people and senior citizens.

*Thank you for giving us the opportunity to serve you more effectively as a result of the positive outcome of the Referendum last Thursday.*

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# CARDIFF ROAD INDUSTRIAL ESTATES

## More than meets the eye!

# BARRY PROVIDES STRENGTH AND VARIETY IN ITS LOCAL ECONOMY!

by TIM CHAPMAN

The health of any economy is the provision of a wide variety of businesses, offering a number of services – and on both counts Cardiff Road and the local industrial estates score highly.

Not only are there service-related companies offering vital support to the local community and other businesses, there are manufacturers and product providers, too.

Glamorgan Garden Timber Products is a niche supplier of 'garden

furniture'. Philip Harding, the manager, explained: "We have fencing, trellis work, bird houses, garden chairs, picnic benches and wishing wells.

"The products are made in Bridgend, but shortly we will be making them in the unit next door."

The company, which opened last year, can even supply small quantity orders the same day.

With the spring and summer months under way, it is expecting a busy time, as local people plan what to do in their gardens this year.

The astonishing variety of the businesses in



the area is shown by Baymarine Services (Marine) Ltd, which offers its services not just in the UK but abroad too.

Ian Morgan explained: "Baymarine Services is involved in the tank cleaning, engine room cleaning and painting in the marine industry.

"We carry this work out and deal with either the owners' or contractors' account. We regularly work in European and UK dry docks as well as tank farms and factory sites, we also do sea going and wet dock work.

"While most of our

work is charged at an hourly rate, where there is clear specification and/or tender documents we can quote a fixed rate."

"Business to business" companies feature prominently in the Cardiff Road area.

Corona Lighting is celebrating 20 years of trading this year.

The managing director, Matthew Day, said: "We are a wholesale business which offers commercial lighting for business use, and a large range of energy saving products."

Another 'B2B' company is The Business Centre.

Its manager, James Mason, pointed out: "At The Business Centre, we have a number of years experience within the serviced office industry and understand that along with competitive prices we need to offer the highest level of customer service and professional outlook for usinesses.

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(CONTINUED ON PAGE 15)



ABOVE: For a cheerful early morning welcome and great snacks and meals, people can visit Bakers Baguettes.



The industrial estates in Barry are a vital part of a vibrant local economy.

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# YOUR CHANCE TO SHARE THE COMMUNITY NEWS

**Platinum day**  
**CONGRATULATIONS**  
 to 91-year-olds, Jim and Doreen Collerton, from Pyle Inn Way, Pyle, who will be celebrating 70 years of happy marriage on Tuesday, March 15.

The couple first met when they were stationed in Reading during the war. Jim, from London, was a driver in the Royal Army Service Corps while Doreen, who was born in Swansea, was a member of the Territorial Army serving as an ATS cook, serving the drivers.

They had planned to get married in St Mary's Church in Swansea, but unfortunately, it got bombed and so the ceremony was switched to St James' Church.

*These days they enjoy tending their garden, getting about exploring different parts of the country and spending time with daughter Jan, her husband Martin and the family.*

**Community Watch**  
 PCs Mark Child and Suzette Williams from Pyle Neighbourhood Policing Team on Tuesday, March 1

## Meeting over the Eisteddfod

*A public meeting is being held on Monday, March 14 at 7pm in Llantwit Major to inform people of how they can help in fundraising towards the staging of the Welsh National Eisteddfod in the Vale next year.*

The venue is Illtud's 216 restaurant, opposite the town hall. Parking is available behind the town hall.

The National Eisteddfod takes place at Llandow in August 2012.

## HOW IS YOUR FAVOURITE RESTAURANT DOING IN THE NEW HYGIENE RATINGS?

# Food standards website makes a hesitant start

THE first food hygiene ratings for the Bridgend county borough area are now available on the Food Standards Agency website which shows some local outlets and organisations failing to make the grade 3 'generally satisfactory' rating.

The rating system works in the following way: 0 - urgent improvement necessary; 1 - major improvement necessary; 2 - improvement necessary; 3 - generally satisfactory; 4 - good; 5 - very good.

The scores are part of a scheme run by local authorities in Wales, England and Northern Ireland to give the consumer information about food hygiene standards across their own area.

The Bridgend county borough listings are extensive, with more than 250 establishments listed, from volunteer coffee morning canteens to hotels, but a number of places are not listed yet.

A spokesman for the Food Standards Agency explained: "Each business is given a 'hygiene

seized an off-road quad-bike on Ffordd y Mynach, Pyle.

It had been used on the road illegally and will now be crushed.

With regard to the parking issues on Brynglas Terrace with Pyle Road and Bedford Close in Cefn Cribw, regular patrols have been made with only one PACT warning notice being issued.

There have also been regular patrols on Cefn Road, both on foot and by vehicles, with the speed camera van also in attendance and to date, no offences have been committed by passing motorists.

*Patrols in all areas will continue and the results will be reported at the next PACT meeting in the Pyle Life Centre, Pyle on March 11 at 6.30pm.*

### CAB meeting

A MEETING was held last Wednesday between Sarah from the Citizens Advice Bureau, Paula James, chair of Pyle Community Council and officers of the Talbot Community Centre, to arrange monthly sessions of CAB in Kenfig Hill.

*Because of the present economic climate and the costs of setting up an area office and also taking into account that the service was needed in Kenfig Hill, the community centre offered the use of their facilities free of charge.*

The bureau will begin their first session on Monday, May 4.

**Soup lunches**  
 Parish of Kenfig Hill THERE will be soup lunches at £3 throughout Lent at Theo's from 12pm-1pm.

On Sunday, March 13, there will a short Evensong with coffee and a back of the church tidy-up. They are looking for as many volunteers as possible, so why not go along?

**Citizens award** – it has been decided to go ahead with the 'citizens award' for Mynydd Cynffig Comprehensive School.

The award will be in two parts, with one for a pupil residing in Pyle and the other for a pupil in Kenfig Hill.

The two trophies are to be perpetual, but each winner will also receive an individual trophy to keep, together with a £50 voucher for WH Smith.

The winners will be chosen by the school and awarded on presentation at 7.30pm.

**Brian, the curator of the Pontypridd Museum, is a well known speaker to historical societies in the area, as well as being a regular with the Kenfig Society.**

*Everyone is welcome to what should be an interesting evening when some slides of the industrial scene in the valleys over the last 300 years will be shown.*

### St David's Day

*The atmosphere was fantastic at the lunch-*

possible, so why not go along?

*On March 15, there is the Eucharist and annual vestry meeting at 7pm, followed at 8pm by cheese and wine. Tickets £3.50.*

### Pyle Community Council

**BUS shelters** – the council has decided to erect three more bus shelters in the community and Coun Paula James will discuss the location of these new shelters with representatives of BCBC.

It is anticipated that two will be placed in Pisgah Street and Bridge Street, with the third to be decided. Coun James will take the opportunity to ask BCBC to undertake the cleaning of these shelters.

**Cricket field** – in response to a letter from BCBC, the Community Council acknowledged that it would not be possible to prepare a cricket square in time for this season.

However, it was resolved to make an early start this year, and instruct the clerk to obtain quotations for the preparation of a cricket square, one of which should be from BCBC, in order that it would be ready for the 2012 season.

**Citizens award** – it has been decided to go ahead with the 'citizens award' for Mynydd Cynffig Comprehensive School.

The award will be in two parts, with one for a pupil residing in Pyle and the other for a pupil in Kenfig Hill. The two trophies are to be perpetual, but each winner will also receive an individual trophy to keep, together with a £50 voucher for WH Smith.

The winners will be chosen by the school and awarded on presentation at 7.30pm.

**Brian, the curator of the Pontypridd Museum, is a well known speaker to historical societies in the area, as well as being a regular with the Kenfig Society.**

*Everyone is welcome to what should be an interesting evening when some slides of the industrial scene in the valleys over the last 300 years will be shown.*

### St David's Day

*The atmosphere was fantastic at the lunch-*



**COMMUNITY NEWS** from  
**KENFIG HILL AND PYLE**  
 by **Richard Sims**  
 Telephone: 01656 746840  
 Mobile: 07802 439679  
 E-Mail: richardsims@talktalk.net

day.

**Poppy party** – following a request by the Royal British Legion, the Community Council will team up with the Talbot Community Centre to arrange a fun event to support the Great Poppy Party Weekend on Saturday, June 11. It will be great entertainment, with all proceeds going to the Poppy Appeal.

**Community Tax** – the good news for the residents of Pyle and Kenfig Hill is that, for the third year running and unlike other Community Councils in the Bridgend area, PCC have kept their precept the same and will not be raising the Community Tax for the year 2011.

**The Kenfig Society** On Tuesday, March 15, a talk will be given on 'Industrial South Wales in Art' by Brian Davies, at a meeting of the Kenfig Society at the Pyle Life Centre, Pyle, at 7.30pm.

Brian, the curator of the Pontypridd Museum, is a well known speaker to historical societies in the area, as well as being a regular with the Kenfig Society.

*Everyone is welcome to what should be an interesting evening when some slides of the industrial scene in the valleys over the last 300 years will be shown.*

**St David's Day** THE atmosphere was fantastic at the lunch-

eon club in the Talbot Community Centre, Kenfig Hill on St David's Day.

With Chef, Gina Hooper, providing a typical Welsh meal, including Cawl and Laver Bread, daffodils everywhere and some of the diners wearing Welsh costumes, everyone thoroughly enjoyed themselves.

It was good to see the village get together and enjoy the day.

**Mynydd Cynffig Junior School** CONGRATULATIONS to the following pupils who were nominated for impressing the staff at the school last week:

Cai Williams, Class 1, Ben Mulholland, Class 2, Jay Buckley, Class 3, Luke Dingle, Class 4, Kyle Williams, Class 5, Jac Flanagan, Class 6 and Rees Moodie from Class 7.

The headteacher's award went to Callum Wright. Congratulations also go to Lowri Thomas, Olivia Evans, Kyle Williams, Jac Flanagan, Megan Radmore, Jacob Hesketh and Owain Parsons for their excellent behaviour during lunchtime last week.

As a reward they will be joining Mr Goldsworthy for lunch.

Last week, the rugby and netball teams played away to Newton Primary School, Porthcawl.

The 'A' rugby team won by five tries, scored by Luke Dingle, Ceiran Jones, Thomas Morgan with two coming from Anthony Burnell to nil.

The 'B' team won by three tries, scored by Leon Jones and two from Morgan Kent to nil.

On the netball court the 'A' team were defeated by 6 goals to 4, even so Taylor Jones was in impressive form.

With Semen Akpinar playing particularly well the 'B' team won by 11 goals to 3.

However, an identical search in the Vale of Glamorgan listed only 26!

The GEM has discovered that one local restaurant, the Harvester in Sarn, near the Designer Outlet Centre, is currently rated as a '2' – purely due to an input error. The correct figure should be 3.

A Harvester spokesperson said: "We have contacted the EHO regarding this and have been assured this error will be corrected as soon as possible."

"We have acted quickly to rectify any issues and to ensure we maintain the high standards of food safety that we require."

The ratings are available at [www.food.gov.uk/](http://www.food.gov.uk/)

PHILIP IRWIN



ABOVE: Kim Burnell, Cheryl Butcher and Blanche Thomas.



ABOVE: Jim and Doreen Collerton.

**Parsons.** Class 7-1st, Harriet James, 2nd, Shauna Dunn-Jones, 3rd, Megan Radmore; 1st, Cai Williams, 2nd, Jack Joy, 3rd, Codi Pritchard.

Class 2-1st, Shauna Lewis, 2nd, Georgia Coleman/Molly Leyland, 3rd, Emily Walters/Lucy Clark; 1st, Liam Evans, 2nd, Thomas Llewellyn, 3rd, Connor Jenkins Jack Davies.

Individual winners – art: Class 1-1st, Ales Harman, 2nd, Ethan Avery/Dafydd Jones, 3rd, Olivia Davies/Cai Davies.

Class 2-1st, Liam Evans, 2nd, Alex Underhill, 3rd, Menna Downs.

Class 3-1st, Erynn Mae Franklyn, 2nd, Paige Cochrane, 3rd, Taryn Mathews; 1st, Cai Downs.

Class 4-1st, Hannah Williams, 2nd, Megan Stevens, 3rd, Brooke O'Neill; 1st, Leon Jones, 2nd, Phillip Burnell, 3rd, Callum Brennan.

Class 5-1st, Imogen Davies, 2nd, Anwen Sleath, 3rd, Kate Thomas; 1st, William Underhill, 2nd, Connor Farnham, 3rd, Jack Underhill.

Class 6-1st, Lauren Phillips, 2nd, Stephanie Thomas, 3rd, Millie Evans; 1st, Jac Flanagan, 2nd, Kieron Williams, 3rd, Owain Williams.

Class 7-1st, Alice Webber, 2nd, Callum Dingle, 3rd, Lois Fowler, 4th, Lauren Cooper.

Class 8-1st, Elisha Owen, 2nd, Anwen Sleath, 3rd, Kate Thomas/Imogen Davies.

Class 9-1st, Millie Evans, 2nd, Taylor Anderson, 3rd, Jac Flanagan/Jessica Davies.

Class 10-1st, Alice Webber, 2nd, Jade Mitchell, 3rd, Lloyd Thomas.

Class 11-1st, Rebecca Coleman, 2nd, Megan Stevens, 3rd, Phillip Burnell.

Class 12-1st, Arwen Sleath, 2nd, Jade Walker, 3rd, Jack Underhill/William Underhill.

Class 13-1st, Rebecca Williams, 2nd, Terri Knight/Holly Tarr, 3rd, Jac Flanagan.

Class 14-1st, Jordan Baker, 2nd, Jade Mitchell, 3rd, Lloyd Thomas.

Class 15-1st, Rebecca Williams, 2nd, Terri Knight/Holly Tarr, 3rd, Jac Flanagan.

Class 16-1st, Rebecca Williams, 2nd, Terri Knight/Holly Tarr, 3rd, Jac Flanagan.

Class 17-1st, Rebecca Williams, 2nd, Terri Knight/Holly Tarr, 3rd, Jac Flanagan.

Class 18-1st, Rebecca Williams, 2nd, Terri Knight/Holly Tarr, 3rd, Jac Flanagan.

Class 19-1st, Rebecca Williams, 2nd, Terri Knight/Holly Tarr, 3rd, Jac Flanagan.

Class 20-1st, Rebecca Williams, 2nd, Terri Knight/Holly Tarr, 3rd, Jac Flanagan.

Class 21-1st, Rebecca Williams, 2nd, Terri Knight/Holly Tarr, 3rd, Jac Flanagan.

Class 22-1st, Rebecca Williams, 2nd, Terri Knight/Holly Tarr, 3rd, Jac Flanagan.

Class 23-1st, Rebecca Williams, 2nd, Terri Knight/Holly Tarr, 3rd, Jac Flanagan.

Class 24-1st, Rebecca Williams, 2nd, Terri Knight/Holly Tarr, 3rd, Jac Flanagan.

Class 25-1st, Rebecca Williams, 2nd, Terri Knight/Holly Tarr, 3rd, Jac Flanagan.

Class 26-1st, Rebecca Williams, 2nd, Terri Knight/Holly Tarr, 3rd, Jac Flanagan.

## Green waste collections

**BRIDGEND** County Borough Council has asked us to point out that we incorrectly reported on February 24 that the cabinet had agreed to start charging households a fee for collecting green waste at the kerbside.

However, that report to cabinet was withdrawn from the cabinet agenda, so was not discussed or approved at the meeting.

A GEM reporter contacted the council after the cabinet meeting and asked if all the items on the agenda had been approved, as per the recommendations, and was told that they had.

We were not informed that this item had been removed from the agenda. A copy of the report on green waste collection had previously been sent to the GEM as part of the cabinet papers.

We reported the item in good faith but are happy to clear up any misunderstanding.

## Police probe after 'serious' street assault

**MAESTEG** police are investigating after a 20-year-old man from Nantymoel was attacked outside the Po Wing Chinese takeaway, at High Street, Ognmore Vale, on February 26 at about 11.30pm.

The victim later required hospital treatment for head injuries. Maesteg Neighbourhood Inspector Ralph Harris said: "This was a very serious and unprovoked attack."

"We are appealing for any witnesses, or for anyone who may have any information with regard to this incident to contact us."

Anyone with information can telephone Inspector Harris at Maesteg police station on 101, or Crimestoppers free and in confidence on 0800 555 111.



# GEM RURAL PROFILE

Promoting NATIONAL PET MONTH April 2nd - May 2nd



## The rural Vale builds on its timeless virtues, to develop a bright future

**A**t the very heart of the rural Vale – and this is hardly a surprise – is the hands-on role played by local farmers.

The local countryside is inextricably linked to the type of farming that takes place, whether it be the wide open spaces along the coast where sheep graze, or the fields divided by neat hedgerows that line the many lanes in the area.

It could be argued that those hedgerows

and fences have kept non-farmers out, fostering a town and country mentality – but things are changing rapidly, as Adrian Evans, the county executive officer at the Farmers' Union of Wales, told The GEM.

He said: "The farming community is aiming to invite more people to visit working farms, which are fascinating places."

"On June 12, farmers will be inviting visitors to discover at first hand all about life on Britain's farms and find out for themselves what happens beyond the

farm gate. This annual event is a must for anyone interested in how farmers produce our food, and the ways they care for our countryside too."

The event is called 'Open Farm Sunday' and the Welsh regional co-ordinator, Eira Edwards, commented: "We often hear farmers say no-one will be interested in my farm – but those who haven't taken part will be surprised!"

She added that a series of workshops is available to farmers, run by LEAF (Linking Environment And Farming), to help them plan to welcome visitors.

The first takes place on Monday, March 14, at Slade Farm in St Bride's Major.

Annabel Shackleton, an Open Farm Sunday manager, said: "Last year, more people attended Open Farm Sunday events than Glastonbury, and we're keen to build on that success and see even more farms across the country taking part."

"The workshops themselves are relaxed and informal – there is something for everyone, however large or small an event."

Now in its sixth year, Open Farm Sunday gives the public the opportunity to discover where their food comes from and how farmers care for the countryside.

More than 450 farms across the UK are expected to open. The scheme has proved good for both hosts and guests, as Annabel explained: "There are real business benefits too for those farmers who host events.

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 19)

by PHILIP IRWIN

### NATIONAL HUNT HORSE RACING

Ystrad Taf Ffchan

#### POINT TO POINT

at Uplands Farm, YSTRADOWEN, Cowbridge Saturday, 16th April - 1st Race 2.00 pm

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\* DLG-PowerMix Test 2009-622, DLG-Testzentrum, Gross Unstadt.

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# GEM RURAL PROFILE

Promoting NATIONAL PET MONTH April 2nd - May 2nd



(Continued from page 17)

"It can help you improve sales, learn new marketing skills, and build staff morale and a sense of pride, as well as improving relationships with the local community."

To find out which farms in your area are taking part, visit [www.farmsunday.org](http://www.farmsunday.org).

Farmers can book a place on a workshop, or get in touch with their regional coordinator by telephoning LEAF on 02476 413 911 or by emailing [annabel.shackleton@leafuk.org](mailto:annabel.shackleton@leafuk.org).

## A GREAT PLACE TO DO BUSINESS!

There is a strong recognition these days that diversification should be a strong element in the business plan for farmers, particularly in the Vale.

Things have moved on in recent years and now many farms are creating new rural businesses in a variety of areas.

Outside Cowbridge, John Homfray has developed a composting business which now takes all the kitchen waste and green waste from the Vale Council's street collections.

Many farms are looking at solar powered roof paneling or small wind turbines to supply their own electricity and sell the balance back to the National Grid.

A new scheme, administered by the Vale Council's Creative Rural Communities team, will be offering grant aid to encourage farming businesses to branch out into medium and budget price holiday accommodation – perhaps good quality bunks houses, or caravan and campsite provision.

This grant aid is also available for guided nature tours or 'rural skills packages'. However, amid all the new ideas for developing the rural economy, the traditional areas remain strong.

One company with great faith in the future of the Vale is Frank Sutton Ltd, who hold the John Deere franchise and moved to St Mary Hill in the Vale just over a year ago.

Ben Sutton told The GEM: "We always did business in the Vale, but felt that our base in Raglan was not near enough.

"This is our first full season here and the response has been excellent. The Vale is definitely a great place to do business!"

Delight as Cowbridge Cattle Market is given a reprieve! *THERE was delight in the farming community this week when it was announced that Cowbridge Cattle Market will continue for at least another 12 months.*

*The threatened closure meant that livestock would have to be transported to the nearest markets at Carmarthen or Abergavenny.*

*The threatened closure had also been opposed by local town and community councils.*

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Get on stage with a live band!

A NEW-STYLE 'Jam night' is to start at the Stage Door in the Grand Pavilion, giving singers and musicians a chance to play with a live band.

The open jam night is for all ages and abilities, and features the house band, 'Mojomatic'.

A spokeswoman said: "Come along and play in a professional venue with stage lighting and sound provided. All musicians are welcome to play, either as a band, solo artists, singers or with the house band."

The next three scheduled dates are: April 5, May 12 and June 16.

Anyone wishing to perform with the house band should email [Nikki@furnessjones@aol.com](mailto:Nikki@furnessjones@aol.com) and list the songs you would like to perform, or contact 07916 342370.

IF the success of the Bourne films has achieved anything, then it's making quite a big star out of Matt Damon; having taken the ball and run with it in the likes of *Green Zone*, *The Informant!* and *True Grit*, the star is now in a position where he can choose to work with any leading director.

So it is all the more refreshing to see him work with first-time director George Nolfi in *The Adjustment Bureau*.

Damon plays David Norris, a political candidate whose disillusionment with his election is tempered by a chance meeting with a woman called Elise (Emily Blunt). She vanishes into the night, only for Norris to track her down again on the bus; however, this second meeting sets off alarm bells and a shadowy group, known only as *The Adjustment Bureau*, must stop David and Elise from being together...

The *Adjustment Bureau* is a difficult film to classify; perhaps its closest relative is *Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind*, in as much as both films deal with love, albeit with a peculiar twist. The difference is

that *The Adjustment Bureau* is all about that first meeting, the infinite possibilities of love, mixed with an existential look at how important fate and free will are in our lives - it is also an absolutely mesmerising piece of cinema.

George Nolfi is hardly a newcomer; having written the final part of the Bourne franchise, along with *Ocean's 12* and *The Sentinel* among others, but this is his first time behind the camera, something that very rarely shows.

Nolfi's direction is particularly stylish, the film making the most of the New York location. He stamps a visual identity on the film, yet grounds the more peculiar aspects so that you concentrate wholly on the story.

A muted use of special effects adds a degree of urgency to proceedings, but all is marshalled with aplomb by Nolfi, whose work with the likes of Paul Greengrass and Steven Soderbergh has seemingly rubbed off.

Loosely adapted from a Philip K. Dick story, Nolfi's script is also well executed. Starting off as a love story with a clever meet-cute, Nolfi then throws in the curveball of the bureau, which sud-

## SCREEN TALK



by GARETH JAMIESON

denly takes the story into a new realm.

However, Nolfi's subtle way of introducing this element of the story works superbly; while just exactly who the bureau are goes unanswered, yet is hinted at, it doesn't annoy or anger, Nolfi concentrating more on characterisation than fanciful notions.

The film plays on two levels without feeling overdone or undercooked and he weaves in the notions of love and fate, yet doesn't labour upon them to the detriment of the pacing, keeping the story moving at all times.

There are more than a few plot holes if you are willing to look hard enough, the passing of

time seemingly failing to dampen love no matter how poorly you've been treated in particular, but Nolfi's script works very well, adding a dollop of wry humour into the mix and keeping things light.

Of course, in love stories, existential or not, you need to have two characters, and actors, who convince you to root for them, and both Matt Damon and Emily Blunt do an exceedingly good job of that here.

Damon, who has hit a rich vein of form lately, is wholly engaging as a man who is driven and ambitious, yet shows a hint of fragility beneath the surface, and as the story progresses, carries the weight of events.

Damon does the role of man fighting against the odds well.

Opposite him, Emily Blunt is absolutely wonderful. You can wholly buy into the character of David falling head over heels for her. She is witty and full of charisma, yet also beguilingly tender as the bureau try and keep the two apart.

Given their mysterious origins, the men from the bureau tasked with stopping the pair aren't short of character. Anthony Mackie is quietly dignified as the agent tasked with following Norris,

and whose empathy for the pair's plight sets the narrative ball rolling.

John Slattery parlays his *Mad Men* cool into a sardonic agent who almost seems resigned to the eventual outcome; with Terrence Stamp as the bureau agent known as 'The Hammer' exuding casual menace, there is nary a weak turn on show from the cast.

While the eventual outcome comes straight from the romance genre cliché book, it almost slips by unnoticed, so wholly are you rooting for the two characters.

What Nolfi has succeeded in doing is merging two disparate genres, creating a film that is a truly wonderful watch; *The Adjustment Bureau* is a captivating way to spend 105 minutes of your life.

**VERDICT** - A tender love story wrapped up in layers of questions about fate, free will and the choices we make, *The Adjustment Bureau* is a superb piece of work.

Well scripted and directed by George Nolfi, coupled with excellent turns by a top-notch cast, in particular Matt Damon and Emily Blunt, *The Adjustment Bureau* is a charmingly intelligent effort.

**Highly recommended.**

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### Can you be entertained?

Mixing it up a bit more this year! As well as cabaret nights on a Saturday we will be having some bands and comedians, plus a mixture of other acts on a Friday (Easter onwards) such as karaoke, theme nights, band nights, comedy nights, and drag artists, there is something for everyone. It's the only place to go to over the Bank holiday weekends, with 3 big nights of entertainment. Keep an eye out for what's coming.

**And to eat?** We offer a great value menu from only £4.99 with traditional family favourites, plus some more unusual fare too. Don't forget our Curry with a pint on Thursday evenings from the end of May onwards. It's been really popular, with home made curries changing weekly, plus the Thursday quiz. Sunday lunch from £6.95 offers exceptional value for a table served meal in relaxed surroundings without the hustle and the bustle of the usual carvery fare. Booking for lunch is definitely recommended.

**The location?** With fantastic views from the cliff top overlooking the Bristol Channel, with views to The Knap and the historic islands of Steepholm and Flatholm, and on a clear day across to Weston it is a great place to find refreshment with the large cliff top patio and outdoor seating. And yet only a 10 minute trip from Barry or Llantwit Major.

**What else?** A large car park and pleasant location makes us an ideal place to hold a wedding reception, birthday party, conference or any private function. In short, a great place, serving good food and good beer, with a great atmosphere!

**Bookings for Mothers Day now being taken,**  
3 course meal £9.95, plus pianist/violin. Booking definitely recommended to avoid disappointment.

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See our advert in The GEM for regular entertainment updates and extended opening dates

# Out and About with The GEM

## Art exhibition in Penarth gallery opens

**AN exhibition opens this week at the Washington Gallery, staged by Penarth Arts and Crafts Ltd (PACL) entitled**

**'Tracks and Traces' – a collaboration between photographer Sam Hughes and printmaker Joseph (Jo) Field.**

**Work will be displayed in the lower gallery from March 7 – March 26, with an opening night on Friday (March 11) from 7pm – 9pm. Entrance is £2 and there is a pay bar available.**

**Jo Field is exhibiting a series of collagraphs, 'Rural tensions', which are a**

**personal comment on the tensions and pressures faced by rural communities in the early part of the 21st Century.**

**Sam Hughes' photographs, taken inside the Penarth Pavilion last autumn, aim to depict the mysterious beauty that can be found in dereliction.**

**Said Sam: "I was recently given an opportunity to see the (Pavilion) Ballroom and was amazed by both the degree of dereliction and the enduring vibrancy of the colours.**

**"In its poignant state, there is still a fascinating beauty."**

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Prawn Cocktail  
Garlic Mushrooms  
Homemade farmhouse pate and chutney  
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Deep Fried Brie with conserve  
Whitebait

\*\*\*\*\*  
Chef's Choice - Chicken Breast stuffed with Stilton cheese, sun dried tomatoes, wrapped in bacon, baked and served with Provencale sauce.

Chicken Princess  
(breast of chicken cooked in a white wine and cheese sauce).

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Champignon (rich mushroom sauce) or Diane (onion, mushroom, tomato and garlic sauce).

Sole Mornay - Fillets of sole, cooked in white wine and cheese sauce

Pork Tenderloin, cooked in massala wine, onions and mushrooms, served with rice.

Vegetarian Option - choice given  
\*\*\*\*\*  
All served with two vegetables of the day and saute potatoes

\*\*\*\*\*  
Choice of sweet trolley

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**OPEN MOTHER'S DAY**  
Sunday, 3rd April from 12 midday  
Booking Advisable

For reservations, please call

**01446 732009**

## LOCAL EISTEDDFOD GROUP SET TO MEET

**THE first meeting of the local committee that has taken on the task of raising money to support the 2012 National Eisteddfod when it comes to Llandow, will take place on Monday, March 14, at 7pm in Illtud's 216 restaurant, Llantwit Major.**

**Each area of the Vale has been asked to raise funds for the event, and Ros Lewis is the spokeswoman for the group covering St Donat's, Llantwit, Llanmaes and St Athan.**

**She said: "Our group has a rather challenging target of £42,500, and we would like as many people to get involved in the fundraising as possible.**

**"This is a chance to come along and meet members of the organising committee and discuss how to get involved."**

**There will be free coffee at the meeting. For further information, contact Ros Lewis on 01446 793530, or by e-mail on rlewis@llantwit.orangehome.co.uk**

### Flower arrangers

**PENCOED Flower Arranging Society have a meeting on Monday, March 21 at 7pm in Pencoed College, with a talk by Kevin Thomas of Pencoed on 'The Flower Arranger's Garden'.**

**Everyone welcome. Contact 01656 657796.**

### Gardening talk

**A G'NIGHT with the Waltons – Terry Walton – is offered by Cowbridge Gardening Club at 7.30pm on Thursday, March 31.**

**Terry Walton is well known in the gardening world for his horticultural spot on the Jeremy Vine show on Radio 2.**

**He has had an allotment for over 50 years on the same site, and will be keen to pass on his gardening knowledge.**

**Most of his skills and knowledge have been passed down from experienced gardeners and he grows organically. The meeting will be in the lesser hall, Cowbridge. New members are welcome at £6 for one year's subscription. Visitors can attend on any evening for £2.**

### Pippa is looking for a home



**Pippa loves to play.**

**THIS WEEK Linda Feagan highlights Pippa, an eight-month-old collie/lab cross who loves her food and her toys.**

**She also enjoys a rough and tumble play in the field with other dogs. She is quite strong-minded, so will need an owner who is used to training similar characters. She would also enjoy living with another, calm dog.**

**To know more about Pippa, call the centre on 01656 725219, or visit Couri Colman, Pen-y-Fai, Bridgend. You can also see Pippa's friends on our website at www.dogstrust.org.uk**

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**Served 12-4pm: 1 Course £5.95;  
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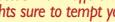
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Our delicious dishes are perfect for that leisurely afternoon out or those business lunches when you need to impress**



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**Tuesday - Saturday • 6pm - 9pm  
Our carefully selected menu offers a range of mouth-watering delights sure to tempt your taste buds.**



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## Crockery from a feminist viewpoint!

**RIGHT: Ann Townson and Mel Palmer-Forse celebrate International Women's Day.**

**PAINTER**

**Ann Townson and ceramic**

**sculptor Mel Palmer-Forse**

**give feminist**

**perspectives on**

**domestic crockery in**

**an exhibition, 'In**

**House', celebrating**

**100 years of**

**International**

**Women's Day, at the**

**Travellers Gallery,**

**Broad Street Station, Barry until April 7.**

**Both artists are members of VOGA (Vale of Glamorgan Artists)**

**and volunteer their time and professional expertise in partnership**

**with Mind in the Vale to help run the gallery which is located in the**

**Travellers in Mind Café.**



## Ty Hafan lottery results

**THE following are winning numbers in the Ty Hafan Crackerjackpot lottery draw number D660.**

**• £2,000: 329031.**

**The rollover, which now stands at £1,000, was not won this week.**

**• £10: 5 8 9 2 1 5 ,**

**821202, 392022, 629840,**

**208402, 501235, 548899,**

**594699, 518342, 750958,**

**328336, 530046, 699366,**

**416556, 336487, 814503,**

**492041, 473905, 751880,**

**547348.**

**• £5: 865483, 586714,**

**430048, 273534, 551204,**

**202911, 146910, 451731,**

**839398, 485143, 393382,**

**The GEM cannot be held responsible for any errors or omissions contained in the above.**

**For lottery information**

**please call telephone 02920 672062.**

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# PENCOED ARE TOO STRONG FOR CWMAVON

**RIGHT:**  
Wing Ken Morris scores for Pencoed.

PENCOED were far too strong for a depleted Cwmavon side at the Recreation Ground and ran out 64-10 winners.

The visitors opened the scoring with an eighth-minute penalty goal, and only a last-ditch covering tackle from diminutive home scrum-half Jamie Williams saved a certain score.

The home side then settled down and took advantage of good possession, wing Jeff Hobbs entering the line in the outside centre position to cut through to score.

Marc Davies added a penalty goal to lead 8-3,

**PENCOED**  
**CWMAVON**

**64**  
**10**

and another full round of passing then put opposite wing Ken Morris over.

The home side then conceded a soft score under the posts for a 13-10 scoreline, but increased their lead with a clever front of the line-out move, which rewarded front row forward Andrew Shillam.

A quick tap penalty from Williams then put Hobbs into space, and the ball was moved back inside for skipper Aaron Halse to take a difficult low pass and dive over in the same movement. At the interval Pencoed

led 23-10. Early in the second half, No 8 Halse fed Williams, who sped away from 50 metres to score.

With the visitors picking up a red card, eventually the floodgates opened, Pencoed adding further tries from Hobbs, Morris, Lloyd Ryland, Glen Hiscocks, Tom Cross, and a 50-metre effort from back row forward James Murphy. Cross added three conversions.

Full match points in their last two games now sees the team distancing themselves from the relegation spots. Playing superb rugby at present, they need fear no-one in their remaining nine matches.

Next up is Morriston away on Thursday, March 17, 7.15pm kick-off, when the team will look for their first double of the season.

TR



Pencoed back row forward James Murphy sets up an attack.



Pencoed's Tom Cross races away.

## Llangeinor Hunt Pony Club celebrates 50th anniversary

THERE was plenty to celebrate when more than 150 guests young and old, gathered to commemorate Llangeinor Hunt Pony Club's 50-year semi-centennial party which took place at Llanharan Rugby Club.

Best attendance – Shauna Evans; most helpful member – Meryl Hamner; best all rounder – Jessica Hegarty; best ambassador – Josh Rees.

The evening included the presentation of the Nichola Wagstaffe Perpetual Award for

Pony Racing 12.2 and under to Grace Dalton. This handsome trophy was donated by Jen and David Wagstaffe in memory of their daughter Nichola, who tragically died in a road accident in 2005. It will be awarded each year at the Llangeinor Hunt Point to Point in her memory.

The beautiful cake was made by ex-member Lisa Llewellyn, whose late parents Janet and Malcolm played a big part in the training of the mounted games teams and were loyal to the Pony Club. Janet had received the Guy Cubitt award in 2002.

The club continues to thrive and has a busy schedule ahead, with teams already practising to represent the area in mounted games, horse and pony care, show jumping, dressage, eventing and equine quiz.

Mrs Elliott, District Commissioner, said: "It was a wonderful evening for all who attended, and an opportunity to say thank you to the many people, all volunteers, who have worked so hard to build the reputation and success of the club over the past 50 years. Long may it continue."

A fun-filled evening started with a circus entertainer, followed by presentation of trophies to

## Under-11s overcome stern Sports resistance

**PORTHCAWL under-11s** played Bridgend Sports in front of a large crowd - a very nervous looking Porthcawl side took the field.

Straight from the off, the Sports looked the more determined team and this was rewarded with the first try of the evening. The Seaweeds, as usual, started slowly, with the forwards looking sluggish and the backs unable to string together; this was shaping up to be the Green and Blacks' hardest game of the season.

The pain was eased somewhat with a scintillating break and try from Louis Protheroe to even the score, but Porthcawl continued to struggle in the ruck and maul.

Will Mahoney

scored over for the Seaweed's second, against the run of play, but it was gratefully accepted by the home side.

The Sports deservedly

scored next to go into the half-time break level.

Next up was Joe Stradling, grabbing his

first try of the evening at

the Porthcawl backs

started to show their

class. Louis soon claimed

his brace but within sec-

onds, the Sports scored

their third to make it four

tries to three with just a

few minutes to go.

The Seaweed's backs

were now in total control,

even with the minimal amount of possession gained by the forwards. Joe dived over for his second and Will Mahoney cut the Sports line to ribbons on three occasions, converting all into tries.

Final score: Rumney 19 - Porthcawl 10.

Back of the match was Ben Roach and forward of the match was Ethan Waters.

Second game result; Rumney 5 - Porthcawl 22.

Try scorers; Ethan

Waters, Callum Morgan,

Dan Williams, Zakk

Furness-Jones, Max

Budding, Ben Davies,

Ben Roach, Connor

Harrington-Pittam, Ian

Clatworthy, Lloyd

Mortimer, Brandon

Cooper.

**RUMNEY**

**NOT having lost for**

**almost two-and-a-**

**half years, Porthcawl under-**

**11s' unbeaten run had to come to an**

**end some time and this was the game.**

Rumney attacked the

Seaweed's right from the

start and with strong

aggressive forwards and

skilful quick backs, they

were always going to

cause problems.

Scoring three tries to

Porthcawl's two,

Rumney were well worth

their victory and were

obviously ecstatic with

the result.

Both tries for the

## Porthcawl under-16s progress in the cup

**PORTHCAWL** travelled to **SWANSEA UPLANDS** in the **PORTHCAWL under-16s** semi-finals of the **Ospreys Cup**.

**SWANSEA UPLANDS** **PORTHCAWL under-16s** **3**

**3**

**53**



Action from the lineout.

Porthcawl started the better of the two sides and within five minutes found themselves 3-0 up, courtesy of a Huw Mitchell penalty.

Unfortunately, powerhouse prop Ben Smith had to leave the field due to an injured ankle and he took no further part in the game.

A couple of minutes later, sustained pressure led to a free kick in the Uplands 22 and, after a ruck was formed, Jack Taylor sliced through to score, which was converted by Mitchell.

Although the game was still somewhat scrappy, the away side kept plugging away and after winning a number of rucks, the ball was spread and Scott Govan threw a superb pass to Lloyd Rossiter Stanford to run onto at pace to beat the scrambling defence and score near the corner. This was well converted by Mitchell.

A set move in the backs saw Rossiter Stanford take the ball at pace in the centre of the field and use his strength to score under the posts. This was successfully converted by Mitchell.

The next five minutes

saw mistakes by both sides with the ball being turned over a number of times. Uplands managed to breach the Porthcawl half for the first time and an infringement in the ruck by Porthcawl saw Uplands take a penalty kick which they were successful with.

After a series of strong

mauls, a ruck was corner. This was formed and the backs superbly converted by Mitchell.

With 15 minutes to go, Declan Brown on the opposite wing received the ball from a long pass by Mitchell, and he used his strength and pace to beat three defenders and score a good try.

Mitchell was unsuccessful with his kick – his first miss of the day, but the referee then blew the whistle to end the game early as the 50-point margin had been reached.

This was a comprehensive victory against a good Uplands side that showed guts and determination throughout.

It was excellent to see the club president and committee members making the long trip to watch the under-16s play – a great boost for the side.

It was inevitable that Porthcawl would score again and after the ball was spread out, Gareth on Sunday, April 3 at Porthcawl, where the team will be playing Abercraf.

**PB**

## Brackla under-8 team mingle with rock stars!



The team (and band) pictured with their new kit

**SIMON SUTTON**, coach with **Brackla JFC under-8s** recently approached

**Michael Thomas**, drummer with **Bullet** for my Valentine and parent of one of the players, and asked if he would consider sponsoring the team.

He had no hesitation in saying yes, and just before they left to tour

Australia and Japan, supporting Iron Maiden, they came along to a training session at Ogmore Comprehensive

to present the players with their new kit.

Simon said: "I have to

say a big thank you to the band, who took time out of their busy schedule to come along and present the new kit to the boys. They really enjoyed the experience and love the new kit."

The under-8s are looking for more players; for more details, contact 07528 649469.

All the players really

## Police's new team

**SOUTH Wales Police RFC** have now confirmed that it is their intention to set up an under-16s team for the new 2011-2012 playing season.

The team will play out of Waterton Cross and run in line with their current youth XV.

If you are interested in being part of this new venture and playing rugby for the new team, please contact the SWP RFC hon secretary on 07780 547974; if you are looking to coach a new team or get back into coaching, then please contact Lindsay Griffiths.

# Mules beaten by Glynneath in table-topping match-up

THIS was not a good day for the Mules in this top-of-the-table clash away to Glynneath at Abernant Park.

The first half was a full-blooded game of rugby with no quarter asked or given by either side and Glynneath led 17-10 at half-time; the score would have been closer as Kenfig Hill did miss a few kicks at goal.

Back row forward Thomas Maund scored a try for Kenfig Hill with outside-half Nicky Giles putting over a conversion and a penalty.

The second half was a different story with Glynneath running in four tries and adding a conversion and a penalty; substitute Raymond Evans replying with a try for Kenfig Hill for a final score of Kenfig Hill 15 Glynneath 42.

## Wick 1st XV 25 Kenfig Hill Seconds 17

THE Seconds' unbeaten run came to an end in a game of two halves at Wick.

The wind dominated the game with Wick scoring four unanswered tries in the first half, along with a penalty and conversion to go into a well deserved 25-0 lead at half-time.

Two of the Wick tries were fine long range individual efforts, including one memorable sprint by Wick's excellent full



Shaun Burnell takes evasive action.



Kyle Evans on the charge.



Morgan Evans looks to pass.

**Pictures by  
PETER GILLING**

back.

The Mules took advantage of the strong wind and slope to run in three tries themselves, one converted by full-back Craig Knight.

However, despite the Mules' late rally, Wick hung on to record a deserved victory.

Skipper Alan Brace, who led from the front throughout, was the pick of the Mules players and was given the coaches' man of the match award.

The Mules' back line improved as the game wore on and there were fine displays from scrum-half Ryan Giles and his outside backs who between them, ran in three well-constructed tries in the second half.

Congratulations to Wick for the victory and congratulations to the

Mules in winning the league.

**Kenfig Hill/Cornelly Youth 18 Cefn Cribwr Youth 15**

ALTHOUGH the score was close, there was never any doubt that the young Mules would defeat their older opponents.

For Kenfig Hill, Chris Leyshon and Connor O'Connell scored tries and man of the match Lloyd Bradley put over a conversion and two penalties.

There were good performances by Calum Willmott, Lee Arrowsmith, Connor O'Connell and Rob Thomas, who had an outstanding game.

## Ath second team have too much for Llanharan

### LLANHARAN 2nd XV 0 BRIDGEND ATHLETIC 75

BRIDGEND Athletic Second XV completed a seasonal double over neighbours Llanharan in the Welsh league for Premiership and Division One club second XVs.

They had a resounding 75-0 victory, scoring 11 tries and captain Tom Cole was responsible for two of the tries and converted 10 for a match haul of 30 points. He joins Nick Hinton as the leading 2nd XV try scorer with eight touchdowns and has 148 2nd XV points for the season.

Other try scorers were Rod Davies (two), Johnny Nation (two), Nick Jones, Stuart Kenny, Nathan Holman, Sam Treharne and Griff Davies.

In 11 league games, the team have an impressive 418 points for and 196 against with a favourable try count of 59 for and 23 against.

AB

## Bridgend's Benji takes club's first Welsh title

BRIDGEND boxing club has its first Welsh champion in Benji Edwards, who entered the 34KG junior WABA championship, winning three bouts to take the title.

The first bout was against Barry Eastend's Tyron Hayman, and Benji took the bout 10 points to 5, securing his place in the semi-final against Bobby Jo Smith of Fairfield ABC.

Benji took this fight by a convincing 18 points to 8 and in the final his opponent was David Waite of Cwmbran.

Benji took this conclusively too, by 16-8 to become Bridgend ABC's first Welsh champion.

Another boxer from Bridgend ABC who recently had success is Richard Canning, who boxed the more experienced Ben Holloway of Mountain Ash on the Maesteg show on February 25.



ABOVE: Young boxer Benji Edwards with Richard Canning.

## Evans's cap success



Evan Yardley.

**B R I D G E N D** Athletic are proud that one of their youth team players, hooker Evan Yardley, was capped by Wales under-18s against France under-18s at St Helens, Swansea.

He played very well against a massive French pack that proved too good overall for the Welsh, who went down by 34-17.

Evan is the son of Bev and Paul Yardley. Paul is the current director of rugby at Bridgend Athletic RFC. He had a distinguished playing career, with Bridgend and Aberavon among the teams he turned out for as a flanker.

AB

## Athletic under-11s are involved in a Caerphilly cracker

CAERPHILLY attacked from the off and were rewarded with an early try.

After a number of good drives, Joe Graham burst through and passed to Chris Crumpton to make it 7-7. Caine Woolerton then scored in the corner to put the Ath ahead.

However, sloppy work at the kick-off allowed the Caerphilly centre, who had a fine game, to catch the ball and run through a number of weak tackles to immediately equalise.

The Ath regrouped and Harry Provstgaard made it 21-14 to the Ath, but the second period ended with Caerphilly scoring in the corner.

The conversion was missed, which resulted in the score being 21-19 in favour of the Ath.

A third period was played to allow all Ath squad members to have a good run out. Caerphilly then had a long period of ascendancy and their running deservedly brought them two quick tries.

Caine received the ball from a tap penalty and sped over to score and keep the game alive, and the Ath then sensed the chance of a sensational comeback.

With the end of the game in sight, Chris Matthews raced over in the corner to touch down and bring the scores level at 33-33.

Caine had the con-

## Porthcawl RFC under-15s beat Resolven

### Porthcawl RFC under-15s 38 Resolven RFC under-15s 15

PREVIOUSLY unbeatens, Resolven were left shell-shocked after facing a Porthcawl side which seem to be improving with every game.

Resolven soon scored another unconverted try, but Porthcawl responded well and were soon rewarded by tries from Ollie Banner, Job Owens and Ethan Wintle, converted by Needs.

On the final whistle the home team scored a deserved consolation try, which saw the final score of 15-38 to Porthcawl.

CW



Bryncethin under-9s pictured in their new kit.

### BRYNCETHIN under-9s played a home game against Rhymney.

As the game got under way, Rhymney proved to be a very strong side and gave Bryncethin a tough game. However, Bryncethin gave their all and played some good rugby, with the visitors taking the lead by the end of the first half.

The second half got under way and again Bryncethin continued to battle on and pull together, which allowed Thomas Painter to score their first try.

Bryncethin under-9s would like to welcome Liam Svenson onto the team who showed great enthusiasm and earned himself man of the match

award.

Team coaches would like to give great thanks to our young team for the continued effort and commitment they show every week.

The final score gave the visitors victory of 8-1.

Team: Kathryn Pritchard; Mason Jones; Thomas Painter; Lloyd Costigan; Dafydd Baker; Billy Sinclair; Geraint Richards; Kane Walters; Liam Svenson.

Bryncethin under-9s would like to thank G4S for their kind sponsor and allowing us to have a new rugby kit.



## YOUNG EXILES moved to the top of the table in the Bridgend Sunday six-a-side Premier Division, Phil Williams playing the starring role as they beat early strugglers The Pie Boys 3-0.

There was another 3-0 in division one, with Misfits accounting for Ogmore Valley Striders, but things were much tighter elsewhere, with the only goal in the other matches coming as Inter Windmill beat Hardly Athletic.

Caine received the ball from a tap penalty and sped over to score and keep the game alive, and the Ath then sensed the chance of a sensational comeback.

With the end of the game in sight, Chris Matthews raced over in the corner to touch down and bring the scores level at 33-33.

Caine had the con-



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## Situations Vacant



## Community Wellbeing Coach

Do you have an interest in the Health and Wellbeing of those in your community?  
Would you like to be able to work in your community to help improve health and well-being?

Are you looking for an opportunity to develop your skills and employment potential?  
This may be the perfect opportunity for you to do so...

We are looking to recruit two trainee Community Wellbeing Coaches for a 12-month period from the Barry area to work in the local community to support people to live more healthy lives.

No previous experience is needed, just enthusiasm and an ability to work with people. Successful applicants will receive a wage of £10,737 plus expenses, training costs and clothing costs.

You will be employed by Newydd Housing Association, but will work with a number of community partners including Communities First in Gibbonsdown/Court and Casteland, The Vale of Glamorgan Council and Cardiff and Vale University Health Board and Public Health Wales.

For an application pack, please call Newydd Housing Association on 01446 704328 or for an informal chat about the posts please call Kieron on 01443 408018, Sharon Topazio on 01446 732406/07725 201199 or Katherine Davies on 01446 709432.

Deadlines for applications will be midday on March 18. The project is supported by the Welsh Assembly Government through the Barry Regeneration Area Programme.



## A LADY IN LLANTWIT MAJOR IS LOOKING TO EMPLOY A Personal Assistant

to support with domestic duties around the home and garden, as well as shopping, meetings and social events.

There are 4 hours of work available per week, some flexibility is required.  
Rate of pay is £7.50 per hour.

Telephone: 01443 408418  
or e-mail recruitment@devwscil.org.uk  
Quote Ref: VOG009.

Successful applicants are required to provide an enhanced disclosure, expense to be met by employer.

## Administrator



We require an experienced, highly motivated administrator to support caseworkers and project workers in our contracts unit.

Successful candidates should have considerable administration experience, excellent interpersonal and communications skills combined with Office 2007 expertise.

Hours: 30 hours pw (Monday – Friday)  
Salary: £17,161 pro rata  
Application packs (CVs not acceptable) are available by email from [jo.bryl@valecab.org.uk](mailto:jo.bryl@valecab.org.uk)

Closing date: 4.30pm Friday 25 March 2011  
Interview date: Friday 4 April 2011

The Vale of Glamorgan CAB is working towards achieving equal opportunities  
Charity Number: 1089294 • Company Number: 4291764

Cleaner  
wanted in Bonvilston

Tuesday and Friday mornings, 4 hours per week.  
£8.50 per hour.  
07595 894405

## CARERS REQUIRED

to work flexible hours to cover days/evenings and weekends.  
Car driver essential.  
Experience not necessary as training provided. Holidays and mileage paid. Wages discussed at interview.

Please contact Carol Griffiths on 02920 711099

## Public Notices

## Charity Commission – CSD-1161C

CHARITY: Sir Thomas Mansel Franklen Trust  
REFERENCE: C-202260

The Charity Commission proposes to make a scheme to amend the trusts of this charity.

A copy of the draft Scheme can be seen at:  
Cowbridge Comprehensive School  
Abertwrch Road, Cowbridge, CF71 7EN  
Telephone - Mrs F Gandy, PA to the Headteacher:  
01446 772311

or can be obtained by sending a stamped addressed envelope to Charity Commission Direct, PO Box 1227, Liverpool, L69 3UG, quoting the above reference or visiting our website at <http://www.charitycommission.gov.uk/schemes/default.aspx>

Comments or representations can be made within one month from February 17th, 2011.

## Notice of application for a Premises Licence under the Gambling Act 2005

Notice is hereby given that: Coral Racing Ltd of the following address:

Glebe House, Vicarage Drive, Barking, Essex IG11 7NS is applying for a Betting (Other) premises licence under section 159 of the Gambling Act 2005.

The application relates to the following premises: Coral, 145 Holton Road, Barry, CF63 4HP

The application has been made to: Licensing Section, Vale of Glamorgan Council, Civic Offices, Holton Road, Barry, CF63 4RU

Information about the application is available from the licensing authority, including the arrangements for viewing the details of the application.

Any of the following persons may make representations in writing to the licensing authority about the application:

A person who lives sufficiently close to the premises to be likely to be affected by the authorised activities

A person who has business interests that might be affected by the authorised activities

A person who represents someone in any of the above two categories.

Any representations must be made by the following date: 6th April 2011.

It is an offence under section 342 of the Gambling Act 2005 if a person, without reasonable excuse, gives to a licensing authority for a purpose connected with that Act information which is false or misleading.

## DISTRIBUTORS REQUIRED

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Dark blue, grey interior, MOT Nov 11, Tax April 11, 45-50 mpg, electric windows & mirrors, air con, cd player, excellent condition.

£3,500 ono

Part exchange considered  
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## Ford Focus 1.6 Zetec Auto 5-Dr RK52 WRU

Blue, 29,000 miles, tax & MOT 12 months, immaculate condition.

£3,300  
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Deadline for Motor Cars  
is 12 noon on Tuesday

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to work flexible hours to cover days/evenings and weekends.

Car driver essential.  
Experience not necessary as training provided. Holidays and mileage paid. Wages discussed at interview.

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6 chairs including 2 carvers, immaculate condition (as new)

Cost £1,600. Bargain at £450 ono

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## GEM Family Notices

## Family Notices

## EDWARDS Margaret

Peacefully on March 3 at her home in Llanblethian, Margaret Edwards B.Sc., M.B., B.Ch., C.P.H. Beloved wife of the late David, dearly loved mother of Bryan and Richard, dear mother-in-law of Sarah and Jane, much loved by all her grandchildren.

Resting at the Private Funeral Home of W James & Sons, Fonmon. Funeral Monday, March 14th, service 1.45pm at Llanblethian Church followed by cremation at Coychurch Crematorium, Bridgend at 3.15pm.

Family flowers only may be sent to the Funeral Home, donations in lieu if desired for the purchase of equipment at the Haematology Dept., Llandough Hospital. Please make cheques payable to W James & Sons Charity Account c/o J James, 11 Fonmon Road, Rhoose, CF62 3DZ.

## WALKER

## Jayne Ann

Peacefully after a long illness bravely borne on February 25, 2011 at Marie Curie Hospice, Holme Towers, Penarth, aged 49 years.

Loving wife to Stephen, much-loved mother to Rory and Elin, beloved daughter to Ann and Neil, sister to Catherine.

Will be greatly missed by all who knew her.

Resting at AG Adams & Son Funeral Home, Gladstone Road, Barry until the funeral service in St Mary Church, Penkenn on Monday March 14, 2011 at 2pm, followed by a committal service at Coychurch Crematorium at 3.45pm. No flowers, please, but donations may be sent to Marie Curie Cancer Care, Holme Towers, Bridgeman Road, Penarth CF64 3YR.

By Jayne's request, Welsh rugby shirts to be worn at the service, please.

## THOMAS Doctor Peter

Peacefully on February 27 at The Manor House, St Hilary, in his 91st year. Dr Peter Thomas MD of Llysnewy. Beloved husband of the late Dorothy, dearly loved father of Philip, Jeremy and Anna-Peta, much loved by all his grandchildren.

Resting at the Private Funeral Home of W James & Sons, Fonmon. Private family service at Llysnewy Church, followed by public service and cremation at Coychurch Crematorium, Bridgend on Thursday March 17 at 11.30am. No flowers by request, donations in lieu if desired to British Heart Foundation c/o J James, 11 Fonmon Road, Rhoose, CF62 3DZ.

## SMITH, Diane

Peacefully at home following a long illness, Diane was loved by her husband Michael and sons Jeremy and Philip. She also leaves her grandson Arran and granddaughter Angelina.

For 25 years Di was the very popular head of French at St. John's School, Porthcawl and a keen member of Cowbridge choir. Di was an enthusiastic member of Llantwit Major Twinning Association and was chairman for two years.

The funeral service will be held at 9am Saturday 12th March at St. Iltyd's Church, Llantwit Major. Cremation will follow at 10.30am at Coychurch Crematorium. Flowers to WA Brown, Funeral Directors, Llantwit Major.

## JOHN NEWTON

Aged 78, from Cowbridge.

Died suddenly and tragically taken from the family fold.

Funeral on 21st March at 3.15pm Coychurch Crematorium.

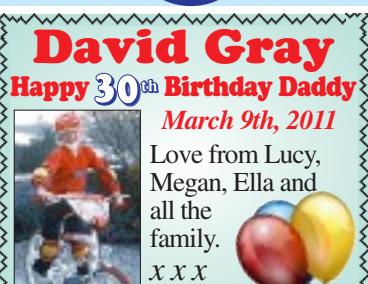
All flowers welcome - to be sent to WA Brown, Llantwit Major.

## Birthdays



Happy 40th Birthday!  
Julian Richard  
FORSYTH  
12th March

Enjoy the celebrations.  
We love u  
oddes 'n' oodles  
Diane, Ella, Jay  
xx



Happy 30th Birthday Daddy  
David Gray

March 9th, 2011

Love from Lucy,  
Megan, Ella and  
all the family.  
xx

## JONES Guy

Suddenly on March 6 Guy, beloved husband of Jan, devoted father of Nicky and Carrie, father-in-law of Allan and Hugh, much loved Grampy of Bethan, Harry, Chloe, Angharad and Eluned.

Guy was formerly Chairman of the Vale of Glamorgan Community Health Council.

Resting at the Private Funeral Home of W James & Sons, Fonmon. Funeral Wednesday, March 16th, service 2.15pm at Llanmaes Church followed by cremation at Coychurch Crematorium, Bridgend at 3.45pm.

Family flowers only may be sent to the Funeral Home, donations in lieu if desired to Llanmaes Church c/o Mr J Robinson, The Ramblers, Llanmaes, Vale of Glamorgan CF61 1XR.

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4ft 6in round extends to 6ft oval - vgc £70.

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07806 728258 (10/11)

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Loose cream coloured covers - £80

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(10/11)

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Attachment Hand

Blender with Knife

both new in box

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# Yummy Welsh cakes for their Saint's Day!

THE youngsters and staff at Fun Foundations Day Nursery, Cowbridge, celebrated St David's Day in traditional Welsh style.

"The children and staff thoroughly enjoyed baking Welsh cakes and even more so, eating them!" a spokesperson reported.

Pictures by ROBERT FISHER



# PENDOYLAN'S PUPILS ENJOY ST DAVID'S DAY



ABOVE and BELOW: The pupils at Pendylan Church-in-Wales School enjoyed their St David's Day celebrations.



## Malefant House, Llanmaes – a real 'GEM'



'Malefant' is located in Llanmaes, a picturesque rural community that on numerous occasions has been voted 'best kept village'. It is conveniently located within a mile of Llantwit Major, 5 miles from the market town of Cowbridge and only 10 miles from the hub of Culverhouse Cross providing an easy link to the M4 or the City of Cardiff. Llantwit Major also boasts a 'park and ride' railway station, bus station, and an array of shops and schools. The Heritage coast is stunning and is less than 3 miles away.

The property offers substantial family living, such as the 18' living room and the 17' sitting room, or the 19' family kitchen and the 15' master bedroom not to mention a 50' rear garden. Other aspects of the property include an entrance hallway, shower room, games room (that can be used as a study), a utility room and 3 further bedrooms with 2 bathrooms.

Outside there are enclosed gardens to the front and the rear with a garage and outbuilding (with potential to become a study or playroom).

All in all, a great property for a growing family searching for a community feel with rural aspects, but without being isolated.

Viewing opportunities are available at most times so please call with your preferred time.



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## Dafydd boosts mini players



RUGBY STAR Dafydd Hewitt of the Cardiff Blues was selected for the Wales Sevens team in 2007, and captained Wales under-21s at the 2006 under-21 Rugby World Championship.

On Sunday, he came to watch the boys from Barry RFC mini section train (above). The boys certainly put on a great show for him. Also in the picture are first team coaches Peter Griffiths and Dominic Rees.

## Local college's famous five

BRIDGEND College level 3 extended diploma - sport (performance and excellence) students, Will - Griff John, Matthew Screech and Lewis Jones, along with former students Macauley Cook and Cory Hill, have represented Wales at this season's under 20s Six Nations

tournament.

All five students played in Wales' first match - a narrow 20-26 defeat against England at Parc y Scarlets, Llanelli.

Wales under-20s captain and second row, Macauley Cook, was awarded man of the match.

Once again, all five students were present in the team's second match, away at Scotland in Stirling.

Wales went on to record a

comfortable 33 points to 3 win, with prop Will-Griff John awarded man of the match.

Matthew Screech, Cory Hill and Will-Griff John were part of Wales' under-18s squad in last season's Four Nations tournament, and along with Lewis Jones and Macauley Cook, Cory Hill and Will John have already represented the Blues at regional level.

## VALE WINNERS AT POINT-TO-POINT

ON AND OFF THE TURF with Brian Lee

THERE were some exciting finishes at the Brecon and Talbont Hunt Point-To-Point Steeplechases at Llanfrynnach, where Nick Williams, assistant trainer at Evan Williams' yard, rode a brilliant race on Jeff Bird's *Minsgill Mans* to land the men's open race.

Nick, younger brother to National Hunt jockey Christian Williams, brought the 13-year-old bay gelding with a good run in the closing stages to win by eight lengths from Robert Rowsell's French-bred *Dreux*.

*Minsgill Mans* was the oldest horse in the race and Mr Bird, who lives in the Vale, said of his horse: "He has won over the course three times now and has won 12 of his 23 races."

The ladies' open race was a much closer affair with last year's winner *Upton Legend*, partnered by Jane Williams, getting home by a short head from the fast finishing *Bosham Mill*, ridden by Lucy Pearce.

*Minella For Food*, who used to be trained by Evan Williams, took the confined race under Josh Harris, who rides out for Evan Williams. The eight-year-old bay gelding by *Saddler's Hall*, gave Josh's sister Grace her first ever winner as a trainer.

*Chandlers Cross*, who was caught on the line after making all the running to be beaten by a neck, was disqualified from second place as his rider Paul Tolman, on dismounting, did not go straight into the weighing-in tent.

The third horse, *Micks Prospect*, was promoted to second place and the stewards fined

Tolman £60. Pembrokeshire's John Mathias had plenty to smile about. He had a walk-over in the members' race on *Rugged Gem* and was later successful on *Marine Hall* (restricted) and *Saint Peray* (open maiden division, one part one). Both *Marine Hall* and *Saint Peray* were sold by Mark Gichero to their respective owners.

The former, which is qualified with the Llangeinor Hunt, and owned by Paul Evans, won by eight lengths from *Copper Castle* and the latter, owned and trained by Dai Rees, made every post a winning one when coming home a distance ahead of *Peterman*.

*Little Miss Monty*, a 10-year-old bare mare, ridden by Emily Farr, took the second part of the second division of the open maiden when finishing a neck in front of *Cabineteely*, with *Harry's Ace* a further neck away in third place. *Little Miss Monty* is owned and trained by Emily's mother, Shan, a former Welsh champion rider who had also ridden winners over the course.

*Victoria Shervington's Beyond Dreams*, ridden by Byron Moorcroft, and qualified with the Pentrych Hunt, made all to win a division of the open maiden after being backed from 5-1 to 2-1 and

*Emma Soda*, a six-year-old bay mare, came from the Clifton-on-Teme to win her division under Mark Jackson.

This Sunday, the Currie and Llangibby Hunt Steeplechases are being held at Howick near Chepstow; first race 12 noon.

Meanwhile, Tom David who rides out at Tim Vaughan's Aberthyn yard, landed a juicy 14-

1 winner when scoring on five-year-old *The Hague* in the maiden hurdle at Plumpton last Monday. *The Hague* finished 15 lengths ahead of *Alystar*, ridden by the legendary A P McCoy.

Vaughan was back in the winner's enclosure 24 hours later when his strongly fancied *Sertao*, partnered by Richard Johnson, got home by the narrowest margin possible – a nose – in the National Hunt flat race.

Llancafnan's Evan Williams was also in good form at Ffos Las, landing a 17-1 double with *Timesawastin* (evens) and *Fahrisee* (8-1). Both were ridden by stable jockey Paul Moloney.

The former won by six lengths from *Tenby Jewel* and the latter, who was the outsider of four, had three-and-a-half lengths to spare over the odds-on favourite *Ruthenoise*.

### WELCOME WINNER

Evergreen Bryn Palling, who trains at Tredrodridge, Pendoylan, had a welcome winner when his four-year-old chestnut, *Mr Maximus*, landed the atrpokerclub.com handicap at Wolverhampton last Friday.

Owned by Mr Nigel Thomas, and ridden by R Kingscote, *Mr Maximus* won by three parts of a length from *Idol Deputy* at odds of 14-1.

At Kempton on Saturday, the Evan Williams-trained *Trooper Clarence*, a seven-year-old bay gelding, was an easy winner of the BetFred Casino Novices Handicap Chase. Confidently ridden by stable jockey Paul Moloney, *Trooper Clarence* won by 13 lengths from *Playing With Fire*. The winner and runner-up were the 11-4 joint favourites.

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*In the pink - Friends and Family with their Shoot Out Club winners' trophy.*

## Success for Barry's 'Friends and family'

IT was a real family affair as two teams from Barry reached the finals of a skittles tournament in North Devon.

'Friends and Family' beat off the challenge of 15 other teams from Wales and the West Country to come out on top in the Shoot Out Club competition in Bideford, and Leanne Williams recorded the top score of the entire weekend with an impressive total of 60 to help the all-women's

Family Affair B team finish third overall.

It could have been an even bigger Barry bonanza - the Family Affair A team missed out on a place in the final by a single pin.

For the Friends and Family team, victory was particularly sweet. They've been taking part in shoot out skittles events since they started 17 years ago and although they've reached the finals before, this was the first time they'd been crowned champions. They beat Bristol team

Lynn is husband

Stephen, brother-in-law Martyn Hill, sister-in-law Sandra Hale and friend Ray Peterson, together with mother and daughter Beverley and Jennifer Thurston, husband and wife Veronica and Trevor Martin and their daughters Becky and Vicki.

The Family Affair B team beat The Mendipper from Somerset to clinch third place. They come together as a touring team for Shoot Out Club events while Family Affair A play more regularly at Barry Rugby Club in the Barry and District League.

The two teams are made up largely of mothers and daughters with the more mature players making up the A team and their organiser, Sue Vincent said: "Youth won out over

experience...this time!"

"It must have been something to do with the Sound suits we wore for the fancy dress party on the Saturday night," said her daughter, Cath Edwards.

The Family Affair B

team featured Cath Edwards, Leanne Williams, Jenny Keating, Carlie Grubb, Judith Enticott, Maria Edwards, Sarah Adams, Karen Adams and Jenny Starke.

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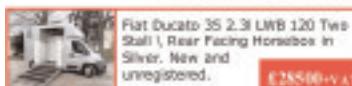
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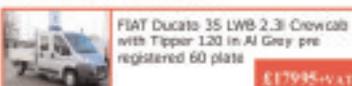
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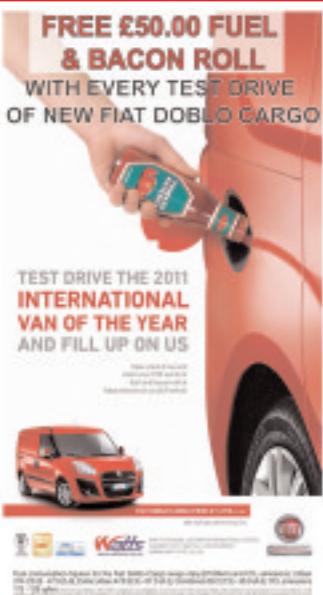
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## Cowbridge under-11s earn win (and draw) against Pontyclun

## Under-11s - Pontyclun (Blues Cup)

THE first five minutes saw Pontyclun declare their intentions, but Sam Corkill rocked their prop back, allowing Jac Roberts and Jake Griffiths to turn over possession.

The ball was flashed along the back line to Bevan Howells and the impressive Cowbridge centre shook off an attempted tackle to run the ball in from 40 metres. From the restart, the ball was moved wide, only for the Pontyclun centre to intercept and race away for the score.

Cowbridge stuck to the game plan of moving their bigger opponents around the park and, after great work from Max Lucas, the ball was sent wide.

Cameron Roy moved the ball to Max Cunningham, who broke several tackles before releasing Evan Williams, and the flying winger beat numerous defenders to score a magnificent try from halfway.

The second half kicked off and Pontyclun forced play deep in the Cowbridge half. A number of penalties were conceded, allowing Pontyclun to drive over for the try.

Superb defence from Luke Beattie, Ellis Simon and Rhys Bradshaw kept Pontyclun out.

Jac Roberts and Sam Corkill worked in tandem to turn the ball over and Morgan Gore then made 50 metres with a fantastic run. The territory made gave Cowbridge the momentum required and Max Cunningham scored in the corner.

Ioan Lewis darted over the line for the final try of the match for a final score of Pontyclun 14 Cowbridge 28.

The second game saw the rest of the squad take to the field. Pontyclun raced to a 14-0 lead.

As the half time whistle blew, Cowbridge were dominating and they continued in the second half. Great work from William Davies allowed Olly Reynolds the time to release Ellis Simon, and the abrasive fly-half needed no second invitation to power over for a superb try.

After great work on the floor, Sam Corkill emerged with the ball and touched down for the final try of the match. Final score Pontyclun 14 Cowbridge 14.

Our huge thanks to all the Pontyclun players, coaches and supporters for your warm welcome and hospitality.

**Squad:** Angus James, Bevan Howells, Cameron Roy, Dan Marshall, Dylan Cottle, Ellis Simon, Evan Williams, Ioan Lewis, Jac Roberts, Jake Griffiths, James Guard, Luke Beattie, Max Cunningham, Max Lucas, Morgan Gore, Oliver Reynolds, Rhys Bradshaw, Rhys Davies, Sam Corkill, Tom Coates, Tom Jose, William Davies.

## Under-7s - Rhiwbina (away)

RHIWBINA, with almost as big a squad as Cowbridge and enough ground space, offered to play two games simultaneously.

The boys quickly split into two similar strength teams, the Greens and the Whites. The Green team were playing Rhiwbina 'A' team and the game between them was immensely exciting.

James Jones went in for the first and Reuben Davies kept the scores equal, but in the last quarter, Harri Treharne ran in six tries.

Stefan Evans rounded off a great team movement with an

excellently taken final try, a just reward for his sterling work in tagging to take the final score to a thoroughly deserved winning score of 12-10.

The White team, playing Rhiwbina 'B', put the opposition under such pressure with their excellent defence work that turnovers were quite the norm.

This meant that the potent attack was making hay against their illustrious opponents, Rhidian Williams to the fore with seven tries.

Rhiwbina were able to show their class as the boys eased up a bit and scored seven well-taken tries of their own.

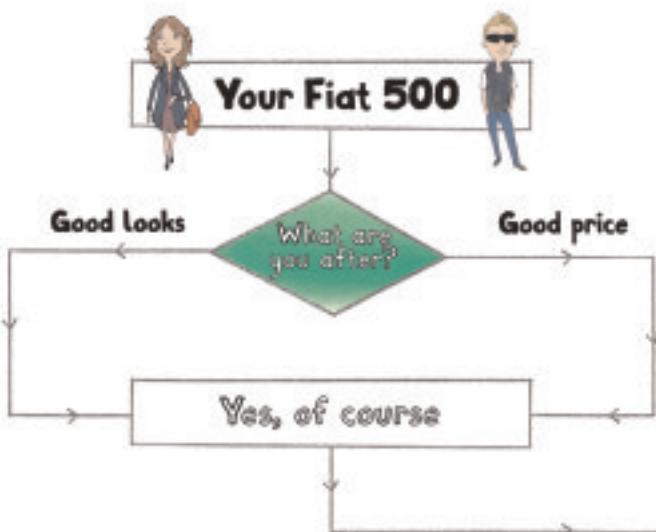
However, a quick wake-up call and it was business as usual, with Lewys Robins, Archie Lloyd, Robbie Brown and Finlay Sullivan touching down to take the result away from Rhiwbina. Final score 13-7.

A great result against a team that had lost only one game this year and that in the only tournament that they had not won; well done, boys!

**Scorers:** Harri Treharne (6), Reuben Davies (4), Stefan Evans, James Jones, Rhidian Williams (7), Robbie Brown (2), Finlay Sullivan (2), Archie Lloyd, Lewys Robins.

**Squad:** Finlay Ball, Tom Brennan, Robbie Brown, Iolo Davies, Reuben Davies, Steffan Evans, Ethan Francis, Morgan Harris, Will Harries, James Jones, Archie Lloyd, Sam Payne, Ifor Rees, Lewys Robins, Will Ryan, Finlay Sullivan, Luke Tredwell, Harri Treharne, Rhidian Williams.

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## Police are beaten by table-toppers

**SOUTH** Wales Police travelled to table-topping (and unbeaten in the league) Resolven with a young team containing several youth players and players entering their first year at senior rugby.

However, from the start they showed their intention by running at the far bigger Resolven pack, then spreading the ball wide to the very fast and youthful backs.

In discipline saw the Police go three points down with a well taken penalty; however, good solid work from the Police saw the ball go through several pairs of hands before a well-timed kick saw wing Lee Roderick pick up beautifully to slide over in the corner.

The Police kept up the pressure and added another penalty from inform Ryan Miles to increase their lead. Back

**RESOLVEN**  
**SOUTH WALES POLICE**

47  
13

row Jason Davies was in tremendous form, attacking the home side on every occasion, while the front row of Stuart Elson, Gareth Thomas and Vernon Dladla did exceptionally well against the far bigger back.

However, it seemed only a matter of time before the far bigger Resolven back would dominate the game, and they controlled the ball with the rolling maul and the Police did well to go in only 20-8 down.

In the second half, the Police held on and showed lots of courage; the home side, however, showed lots of quality and scored some brilliant tries.

The Police added another try with wing Craig Chalmers going on a great run to dive over in the corner.

Man of the match was



**Matt Pound on the attack. (Photos by Gareth Davies).**

Jason Davies, while the tackle count of Craig Davies, Roderick and Miles was countless. In the forwards, Chris Price and Gary Money excelled with Steve Lyons showing all his experience.

Police travel next to Banwen on March 19 in a re-arranged fixture.

KM

With the second period underway, the home side took hold of the game, and with quick attacks, they were able to take a 7-4 lead into the interval.

The final period got underway with Rumney mounting several attacks; yet more solid defending from Bryncethin saw them go on to a comfortable victory with 10-6 final score line.

Try scorers: Ifan Hunnam (3), Mike Gillette (2), Shaun Batchelor, Miles Blakeman,

Thomas

and Keiran Dixon both making good ground.

Daniel Osarigie used his pace to outstrip the covering defence to score in the corner, and he scored his second shortly after, following another flowing move.

All four Bryncethin tries were converted by Jack Thomas.

The Garw never gave up and were rewarded with a consolation try late on.

Try scorers: Scott Ryall,

Ethan Hopkins and Daniel

Rhys Cawley, Jake Whitefield and Rhys Williams.

Man of the match: Scott

Ryall – all round performance from Scott in both the tight and

girls.

**Squad:** Rhys Cawley (captain game 1), Will Laverick (captain game 2), Thomas Bassett, Miles Blakeman, Ben Daniel, Mike Gillette, Morgan Hughes, Ifan Hunnam, Jac Jervis, Hollie Morgan, Cory Ryall, Jake Whitefield and Rhys Williams.

**Under-11s:** Bryncethin

28, Rumney 42

RUMNEY scored four tries in the first half; however, at the half time whistle, the home side rallied to answer the batte call.

A fantastic try from Emry Watkin, captain for the day, inspired his side to take control of their fate against a strong opposition.

Tries from Thomas Brown and Dafydd Evans started to show signs of a fightback that worried a strong Rumney side.

However the strength sapping work rate of the home side showed at the end, as Rumney finished off a solid performance with a final try to stem the resurgence of the home team.

Man of the match was won by Ryan Lovell, a high honour considering a performance where teamwork came first against individual exclusivity.

A number of candidates put their hands up for the accolade including Aaron Jones, Dafydd Evans, Iwan Veasey and Ryan Morgan; all other players should not be dismissed as this was a phenomenal team effort.

**Squad:** Emry Watkin (captain), Jake Canton, Ryan Morgan, Thomas Brown, Emry

Hunnam, Dafydd Evans, Iwan Veasey, Ryan Lovell (man of the match), Sam Shakeshaft, Owen Hart, Aaron Jones, Gethin Napper, Owen Pugsley and Stephen.

**Under 12s:** Tonyrefail 34, Bryncethin 15

THE hosts opened the scoring, but Bryncethin responded well and Morgan Howells was able to put in some excellent tackles.

More good work from Morgan saw him show great pace to put the first points on the board for Bryncethin.

Throughout the game Tonyrefail were always a step ahead, with Bryncethin struggling to break through their defence.

This didn't stop them trying, though, and they were richly rewarded with two tries for Liam Morgan and Morgan Chard.

The second half started with Henry Clark and Jacob Walters showing fantastic commitment around the ruck area.

The defence stood up again with Nicholas Morgan putting in some super tackles.

All in all a very good game but unfortunately Bryncethin didn't put the points on the scoreboard when they had the opportunity. Man of the match: Morgan Howells.

**Squad:** Liam Morgan (captain), Iwan Davies, Connor Ford, Corey Rogers, Christian Jones, Aaron Mctyre, Sam Harding, Henry Clark, Morgan Howells, Morgan Chard, Jack Ladler, Nicholas Morgan, Josh Peters, Corey Booth, Jacob Walters, Owen Jones, Adam John and Carwyn Smith.

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## Celtic cousins have a point to prove

**T**HE story begins 129 years ago at Lansdowne Road, Dublin, on January 28, 1882 – the day Wales and Ireland first clashed on the international rugby field (the Welsh tourists won that opener by two goals, the scoring method at the time).

'Clashed' is no understatement – for the ensuing 115 encounters have produced some notable, at times notorious moments, as passions boiled over in the heat of combat!

However, fierce rivalry between these close Celtic cousins should never be confused with enmity, as evidenced by many legendary tales of off-field camaraderie, not only between players, but the supporters of both camps over the years.

Even so, time after time Irish teams seemed to have reserved their best efforts to thwart Welsh hopes of a Triple Crown or Grand Slam at the final hurdle.

Wales almost returned the 'compliment' in 2009, when a typically seesaw match at the Millennium Stadium saw Stephen Jones' last-

### BACK PAGE COMMENT by Don John

gasp penalty fall agonisingly short and Ireland won 17-15, to claim their first Grand Slam for 61 years!

There was a nice irony in this, for in 2005 it was Wales that had overcome Ireland 32-20 in Cardiff to complete their first Grand Slam since 1978.

By and large, narrow margins have been a feature of matches between the two nations – notable exceptions being 2002, when Ireland won 34-10, and 1976, when Wales won 34-9.

However, the pendulum swung sharply towards the men in green during the years that followed Wales' golden era.

The measure of the challenge facing the Welsh team when they meet Ireland again at the Millennium Stadium on Saturday evening, is that in the last 10 years alone, the latter have won nine and Wales three of the 12 games played. Even so, the record books also reveal encouraging statistics, for the overall table reads: Wales 62 wins, Ireland 47, with six matches drawn.

Even more remarkably, Wales remain ahead on points – 1,329 to Ireland's 1,216, so all is far from lost!

Moreover, Warren Gatland's team know that Ireland's Six Nations campaign has so far failed to measure up to expectations, while Wales, too, have yet to fire on all cylinders; so the stage is set for yet another intensely close-fought encounter, with both teams having much to prove, while at the same time still nursing title hopes.

Former England captain Will Carling's comments that Gatland is enforcing a conservative style of play totally alien to the Welsh team and that James Hook should be 'set free' at outside half, gave the team announcement on Tuesday an added piquancy.

In the event, the coach bowed to the media clamour for veteran Stephen Jones to make way for his younger rival, rather than stick with controlling midfield general Jones against an Ireland team expected to be masterminded by Irish equivalent, Ronan O'Gara?

Hook got the nod, presumably because he offers something different to Jones, so it would seem odd indeed if in fact he is instructed to play in a similar 'conservative' style!

In that sense, Carling had a point.

Gatland did resist bringing back fit again Ospreys prop Adam Jones for the expected fireworks against an Irish eight desperate to silence their own critics. The only other changes saw the expected return of Jonathan Davies and Leigh Halfpenny to the backline.

*It promises to be yet another Celtic battle royal!*

**WALES TEAM TO FACE IRELAND:**  
Lee Byrne (Ospreys); Leigh Halfpenny (Blues), Jamie Roberts (Blues), Jonathan Davies (Scarlets) Shane Williams (Ospreys); James Hook (Ospreys), Mike Phillips (Ospreys); Paul James (Ospreys), Matthew Rees (Scarlets, capt), Craig Mitchell (Ospreys), Bradley Davies (Blues), Alun Wyn Jones (Ospreys) Dan Lydiate (Dragons), Sam Warburton (Blues), R Jones (Ospreys).

## A below par Bridgend Athletic grateful for share of the points

**B R I D G E N D** Athletic paid the penalty for taking basement club Felinfoel too lightly.

Following a 40-15 home win, the club in general thought that they only had to turn up to secure the points.

Despite no wins to date, Felinfoel do have seven losing bonus points indicating they are no pushovers and in the end, everybody conceded the Athletic had got out

### Swalec League - Division 1

<b>FELINFOEL</b>	<b>19</b>
<b>BRIDGEND ATHLETIC</b>	<b>19</b>

of jail in keeping their over. Marsh again converted to put the home side 14-10 ahead.

The Athletic should have had a second try, but with a three to one overlap, Felinfoel flanker

Stuart Roberts deliberately knocked the ball forward to prevent the scoring pass going to hand. He was given a yellow card, but the Athletic were only awarded a penalty – when they thought that a penalty try was appropriate. Lewis slotted the penalty to reduce the half-time deficit to 13-14.

Five minutes after the restart, leading Athletic try scorer Lloyd Pemberton gathered a clearance kick inside his own half. He beat player after player, only to be deliberately tripped up by last defender wing Jordan Simmonite. The referee gave the Felinfoel player a straight red card for dangerous play.

Back came Felinfoel with a series of thrusts at the Athletic line, culminating in hooker Simon Delaney forcing his way

over. Marsh again converted to put the home side 14-10 ahead. The Athletic should have had a second try, but with a three to one overlap, Felinfoel flanker

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Lewis kicked the resultant penalty to put the Athletic 16-14 ahead. With numerical advantage of 15 against 14 it was some relief when, on a rare attack, the Athletic were awarded a penalty with five minutes left wide out on their 22 metre line; Steven Lewis put over an excellent penalty to tie the scores.

The only players who enhanced their reputations on the day were 19-year-old flanker Lloyd Evans, who unfortunately had to be replaced at

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